

# City on a Hill



LIVING OUT YOUR FAITH

## From Ears To Action

JAMES 1:19-27 (CSB)

19 My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, 20 for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. 21 Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does. 26 If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he deceives himself. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

# ① Receive the Word Humbly (19-21)

*Humility makes room for the light to enter.*

**19** My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, **20** for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. **21** Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- Be ready to receive the Word. (19-20)

Are you listening to what the Lord is trying to say to you?

Develop the discipline of hearing God while holding your tongue and getting caught up in mind-speak or explaining away His Words or justifying yourself in light of what He's said.

- Be rid of any sin. (21a)

"Sin will keep you from the Bible, or the Bible will keep you from sin."

- Be receptive to the Word (21b)

Humility admits we need the light. Pride shuts the blinds of the soul.

Humility clears space for the light to work. Pride is like a room full of clutter—it blocks light from filling the space.

Humility clears away the self-importance, excuses, and defensiveness so God's truth can reach every corner.

So, listen with an open, humble heart, ready to hear what our Father says.

Is the Bible welcome in your life?

## ② Respond to the Word Honestly (22-25)

*Doing the Word turns knowledge into visible light.*

**22** But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. **25** But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.

- Don't just listen—do it. (22-24)

We can begin to think that listening and learning is the essence of spirituality.

If we do not practice what we learn, it soon fades from memory. It's just forgotten, and it never becomes part of our lives.

Hearing without doing = disaster:

Knowledge requires action:

- Don't just glance—linger, then live it. (25)

Knowing God's Word is essential, but it was never meant to stay in our heads, it's meant to be lived out.

When we do the Word—when we obey what we've read and apply it to real life—we put God's truth on display for the world to see.

Merely listening to the Word is like looking in a mirror and forgetting what you saw.

But when we act on the Word, we reflect Christ to a watching world.

### ③ Reflect the Word Holistically (26-27)

*A pure, compassionate life reflects the light of Christ to the world.*

**26** If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he deceives himself. **27** Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- Your WORDS Reflect or Deflect (26)

Our words are often the first ‘light’ people see from us—and the way we speak can either make that light shine brighter or dim it.

No matter how devoted we appear in other areas, an unbridled tongue can undo it all.

An unbridled tongue is like putting a lampshade over our witness—while a bridled tongue lets the light of Christ shine unhindered.

Do my words brighten or dim the light of Christ in the lives of those around me?

- Your WORKS Reflect or Deflect (27)

James is talking about outward religious rituals, customs or appearances.

When our “religion” is pure & undefiled—it becomes a beacon of hope in a world of pretense, hypocrisy, and compromise.

People can spot real faith because its consistent, genuine, and life-changing.

1) Selflessly caring for others (27a)

Caring for orphans, widows, and the vulnerable is a powerful way to shine God's love visibly.

## 2) Carefully living for Christ (27b)

Living a godly life is essential if we are going to shine for Christ.

George Mueller: "The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts."

## NEXT STEPS

#1 : I will receive the Word with a teachable spirit by cultivating a posture of humility and restraint, and clearing out any sin to make room for the Word.

#2 : I will respond to the Word with active, intentional obedience, immediately putting it into practice even if it is uncomfortable and requires me to change.

#3 : I will reflect the Word through my words and through my works—walking and talking as a shining light for Christ.