



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

JAMES 1:16-27

Lesson 5

*“The word translated ‘religion’ means ‘the outward practice, the service of a god.’
 Pure religion has nothing to do with ceremonies, temples, or special days.
 Pure religion means practicing God’s Word and sharing it with others, through speech,
 service, and separation from the world.”*

Warren Wiersbe

DAY ONE: James 1:16-27

1. Prayerfully read **James 1:16-27**. Remember to read with a purpose! Ask yourself the questions, *who, what, where, when, why* and *how* if applicable.
2. Mark the paragraph divisions in **James 1:16-27** as follows and title each paragraph. You will see the main subject of each section by looking for key repeated words or words necessary for the text to make sense. List the key words for each segment in the column under the Scripture reference. Then title each segment.

James 1:16-18	James 1:19-21	James 1:22-25	James 1:26-27
Segment Title:	Segment Title:	Segment Title:	Segment Title:

3. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the need for every believer to apply God’s Word to his or her life. Doing the study each week is not enough. We must allow the Holy Spirit to *work out* what we are taking in through this study. Begin your homework with a prayer asking the Lord to give you a fresh insight to **James 1:16-27** and express your desire to put into practice whatever the Word tells you to do.
4. James begins this section with the exhortation of *“Do not be deceived.”* Let’s take some time to look up the definitions of the following words and record your findings here:
 - a. **Deceived – Err** KJV (#4105)
 - b. **Variation – Variableness** KJV (#3883)

5. Observe the phrases *word of truth* and *the implanted word* in **James 1:18, 21**. Think of these phrases in light of **Psalm 119:105**. Write it here.
- Meditate on this verse for a few moments. Do you believe that the Word can be this in your daily life?
 - How does this verse increase your desire to know and apply the Word of God to your daily walk?
 - Oh, ladies...this is what God has meant His Word to be! His Word is to lead us and guide us in *every* situation. To counsel us in *every* relationship we face here on this earth. My prayer is that God would show each and every one of us just how perfect and valuable His Word is for our every day life. Write a prayer to the Lord asking Him to show you the importance of the Holy Spirit revealing His Word to you today!

DAY TWO: James 1:16-18

- “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren”(James 1:16 NAS). Notice the loving way in which James addresses those to whom he is writing. Briefly state from **James 1:13a** the deceptive thinking he is dealing with here.
- Not knowing God’s nature and character can result in erroneous concepts and faulty judgments of Him. What does **James 1:17** reveal about Him? Answer by completing the following phrases: (Pause and think about each of these).
 - Every*
 - And comes down*
 - With Whom*
 - Or*
- Define the two words used for gift in **James 1:17**. Explain the difference in meaning in the chart below.

Gift (#1394) – Dosis	Gift – (#1434) - Dorema
Explain the Difference:	

4. What does **Matthew 7:11** reveal about good gifts?
5. Observe and record a few of these gifts from the following verses:
 - a. **John 3:16**
 - b. **Acts 2:38**
 - c. **Romans 6:23**
 - d. **James 1:5**
 - e. **2 Peter 1:2-4**
 - f. **Psalm 16:7a**
6. Contrast God's love, plan and His gifts to you with Satan's plans for you from **John 10:10**.
 - a. What is the *thief's* purpose?
 - b. What is *God's* purpose?
7. God, in His nature and character, is absolutely without change, meaning He is *immutable*. Living in a changing world where things always seem to fluctuate, are unreliable, and constantly changing, what does it mean to you that our God is changeless?
 - a. See God's immutability from the following verses.
 - 1) **Lamentations 3:22**
 - 2) **Malachi 3:6a**
8. By who's will have we been born again according to **James 1:18a** and **John 1:13**?

Challenge: What does it mean in **James 1:18b** when it says: "*that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*"

*"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be."*

Thomas Chisholm

DAY THREE: James 1:19-21

1. Prayerfully read **James 1:19-21**. Where there is a *wherefore*, always look for the *therefore*. In light of *God's will for us*, revealed in **James 1:18**, and *His love for us* in **verse 17**, what does **James 1:19** say we ought to do?

2. According to **Romans 10:17**, what are we to be quick to hear?

3. If you are like me, **James 1:19** does not come naturally or easily. What are some of the benefits of being a good listener in all aspects of life as well as being slow tempered?

4. View this aspect of being “*slow to speak*” from the following verses:
 - a. **Psalm 141:3**

 - b. **Proverbs 10:19**

 - c. **Proverbs 18:13**

5. Write **James 1:19** in your own words personalizing it. Let the following begin your sentence:
In recognition of God’s love for me and purpose for my life,

6. According to **James 1:21**, what are we to *get rid of*? Use your study tools to define each word:
 - a. *Filthiness* (#4507)

 - b. *Overflow - Superfluity* NKJ(#4050)

 - c. *Wickedness – Naughtiness* NKJ (#2549)

7. According to **James 1:21**, what are we to *do*? Again, use your study tools to define each word:
 - a. *Receive* (#1209)

 - b. *Meekness* (#4240)

 - c. *Implanted – Engrafted* NKJ (#1721)

8. How do the following scriptures help you sort out what you are to get rid of and what you are to accept? Summarize each Scripture in your own words.
 - a. **Ephesians 4:21-31**

 - b. **Colossians 3:1-14**

9. How would *meekness* or *humility* be necessary in our receptiveness to the Word?

10. If a Christian chooses to disregard or ignore **James 1:21**, what might be the result in his or her life?

*“Speak Lord, in the stillness, While I wait on Thee;
Hush’d my heart to listen in expectancy.
All to Thee is yielded. I am not my own!
Blissful, glad surrender – I am Thine alone!” E. Grimes*

DAY FOUR: James 1:22-25

1. Prayerfully read **James 1:22-25**. **James 1:22** has been called the *heart of James* or the *key to James*. Write this verse phrase by phrase. Memorize it.

2. The word *hearers* does not refer to merely a casual peruser of the Word but one who gives attention to it, *and receives it (James 1:21)*. One can even love being a student of the Word but if there is no *doing of the Word*, he or she is *deceived*. Describe the *hearers* only from the following verses:
 - a. **Ezekiel 33:30-32** (*begin in verse 23 to see the disobedience of whom Ezekiel was speaking*)

 - b. **Matthew 7:26-27**

3. James gives a description of a person that is a *hearer only* in **James 1:23-24**. The fact that this person is not a *doer of the Word* is only the symptom. What is the real problem?

4. Focus on the word *Observing* or *beholding* KJV(#2657). This indicates more than a quick glance. It signifies gazing intently. What is the point of this illustration?
 - a. Think for a moment why you look in a mirror. Write a few of the reasons you do this.

 - b. Do you behold or see yourself when you hear or read the Word of God? Why or why not?

Challenge: **Exodus 38:8** reveals that the women of Moses’ time donated their looking glasses (mirrors – solid bronze) for the casting of the laver in the courtyard of the tabernacle. What was the purpose of the laver?

*“And remember, it is a message to obey, not just listen to. So don’t fool yourselves.
For if a person just listens and doesn’t obey, he is like a man looking at his face in a mirror;
as soon as he walks away, he can’t see himself anymore or remember what he looks like.”
James 1:22-24 TLB*

5. The phrase “*law of liberty*” in **James 1:25** at first glance seems like an oxymoron (a combination of contradictory words). How is God’s Word the *law of liberty*? You might want to think of the children of Israel brought out of the bondage in Egypt, experiencing freedom. The law was given to safeguard their freedom, not restrict it.)
 - a. Read **Psalm 19:7-19** and comment.
 - b. According to **Galatians 5:1**, what does the Word free us from?
 - c. What does the truth of the Word do for us according to **John 8:32**?
 - d. What are we **not** to do with this freedom according to **1 Peter 2:16**?

6. Underline the **result** of looking and *continuing* as it states in **James 1:25**. TLB
“But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God’s law for free men, he will not only remember it but he will do what it says and God will greatly bless him in what he does.” Selah!

*“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror
 The glory of the Lord, are being transformed
 Into the same image from glory to glory,
 Just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

2 Corinthians 3:18 NAS

DAY FIVE: James 1:26-27

1. Prayerfully read **James 1:16-27**. Observe the continuity of thought from **James 1:18-25** in relationship to **James 1:26-27**: The new birth (**verses 18-19**) leads to the new growth (**verses 19-25**) produced by *hearing* and *doing* the Word. This leads to a new lifestyle that James characterizes by three specific areas of Christian living. James uses these verses as an overview of topics he will deal with more thoroughly later in his letter. List these three areas from **James 1:26-27**:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Using your study tools, look up the following words and record your findings.
 - a. ***Bridle*** (#5468)

 - b. ***Useless or Vain*** KJV (#3152)

 - c. ***Pure*** (#2513)

 - d. ***Undefiled*** (#283)

- e. **Religion** (#2356)
 - f. **Unspotted** (#784)
3. In **James 1:26-27** we encounter *vain religion* contrasted with *pure religion*. *Religious* refers to outward or ceremonious acts of religion. This man thinks because he is outwardly scrupulous in ceremony and worship he is a pious, wonderful Christian. From your findings in the word studies, where is this man *deceived* and what evidences declares him *deceived*?
- a. How is a deceived heart exposed according to **Luke 6:45**?
 - b. Who should our speech emulate? Use **Proverbs 12:6** as an example.
 - c. Meditate on **Proverbs 31:26**. What *law* controls her tongue?
4. James stresses *personal service* and *personal purity* as religion (outward marks of the inward life), which is acceptable unto God. Why do you think ministering to orphans and widows (representative of the two most needy classes in the early church) was a high priority especially for James? See **Matthew 25:36-37** and **Psalms 68:5**.
- a. What promise is given to those who serve the Lord by serving those who are in need - **Psalms 41:1-3**?
 - b. What does **2 Corinthians 9:12-13** say about serving others?
5. Personal purity in our lives is something that God desires for each of us. God sets us apart for Himself and preserves and keeps us holy. How do the following Scriptures say we are to be set apart, or sanctified for God's purposes?
- a. **Philippians 2:13**
 - b. **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**
 - c. **Titus 2:11-14**
 - d. If it is God that works purity in our lives, what is our responsibility in the part of our sanctification?

6. What things could contribute to keeping oneself unspotted from the world's contaminating influences? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you practical things you can avoid to keep yourself pure and undefiled? List them here. Remember, these are for you and could be great suggestions...but God speaks to each of us in different areas. Please try not to judge another's walk, just be honest before the Lord!

7. In what areas of **James 1:16-27** have you been most strengthened this week?

8. What changes would you like to see in your life? Share with your group if it is not too personal. Most importantly, go before the Lord and share your desire with Him! Humble yourself and ask Him to help you. *His grace is sufficient!*

*“God’s holiness isn’t simply the absence of defilement, a negative thing.
The holiness of God is positive and active.
It’s God’s perfect nature at work in accomplishing God’s perfect will.”*

Warren Wiersbe