

Living by Faith IV: James

"In True Faith"

James 1: 19-27

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on September 3, 2017

Entering In:

Do you know a great talker who is also a great listener?

Why do you think it is hard to be both a good listener and talker?

1. According to verse 18, explain how you came to have faith in Jesus. What does this mean to you?

James makes a series of contrasting statements in verses 19 – 27. List at least 3 things James cites that are *not* evidence of “a kind of firstfruits of all he [the Father] created.”

List at least 3 things James cites that *are* evidence of “a kind of firstfruits of all he [the Father] created.”

2. Every religion seems to teach about the control of tongue. Why do you think communication is such a big deal in human relationships?

Pastor suggested four types of listening. Share how you have been listening and how you would like to improve your listening skills.

What lessons can we learn from Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-26) about how to listen?

To what should we be quick to listen?

Why do you think James associates *hasty speech* with *anger*? What characteristic of man do you think generally results in this kind of behavior?

3. How is verse 21 a down to earth way of explaining the call of the Gospel – repent and believe?

What does “accepting the Word in humility” mean to you?

Give one or two examples of how the Word *saves* those who humbly accept it.

4. How may those who listen to the word deceive themselves?

What is the difference between *merely listening to* the word and *heeding* the word?

In this generation, many who claim that they are believers don't attend church faithfully to worship the Lord. They justify their absence by citing their good deeds outside the church. Is this what verse 22 teaches? Why or why not?

5. Which of the following best describes "the perfect law that gives freedom"? Explain.

- A. Natural law
- B. Mosaic law and the Jewish traditions
- C. A new, messianic interpretation of the law
- D. The life and death of Jesus that fulfilled the true intent of the law – love and righteousness
- E. Other

How have you found that this *perfect law* gives you *freedom*?

As you look intently into the perfect law, what things do you see that you need to change in your own life?

What fruit of the Spirit is most needed for such a transformation?

6. What is essential to religion that is acceptable to God?

Why do you think James specifically mentions looking after orphans and widows as evidence of genuine religion?

Does this, by extension, also apply to looking after immigrants (aliens or foreigners) in our country? If so, how does it apply?

What does it mean to be "polluted by the world"? [cf. 1 Corinthians 6:8-10]

What are some of the sources of this pollution that you might encounter in your daily walk?

How does one keep himself from being polluted by the world?

Living It Out:

Pray for one change you would like to see happen in your life.