



Faith Works: Faith Obeys

James 1:19-27

October 7, 2018

Sermon Questions

1. James 1:19 calls us to be quick to hear and slow to speak. Why is this so hard to do? What is the motivation of our heart when we talk more than we listen?
2. Few people would dispute that our political and cultural discourse has hit rock bottom. What role do you think Christians should be playing in this dialogue? How do you think Christians at this point in history can have the most impact?
3. Pastor Jim said that anger “feels so empowering”. What do you think he means by that? Why do we use anger as a strategy in relationships?
4. If anger doesn’t work in the long run, as stated by Pastor Jim, what does? To believe that anger does not work in the long run, what do we have to believe about God and how relationships work?
5. James 1:21 tells us to “receive with meekness the implanted Word”. What condition does our heart need to be in to receive God’s Word? Pastor Jim said that if we realize that we “need” the Word, we will be quick to hear and receive. How much of your typical day do you think you “need” the Word? How do we, as Christians, cultivate this “need” more deeply into our hearts?
6. James calls us to be “doers of the Word”. Pastor Jim says there is a deceit going on in our heart that interferes with us being “doers of the word”. What is that deceit he refers to?
7. The best evidence of being a “doer of the Word” is a transformed life. What has changed in you in the last 10 years? In the last few months?

James 1:19-27 (ESV)

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.