

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

“BEING FAITHFUL IN WORD & DEED”—JAMES 1:17-27

FAITH

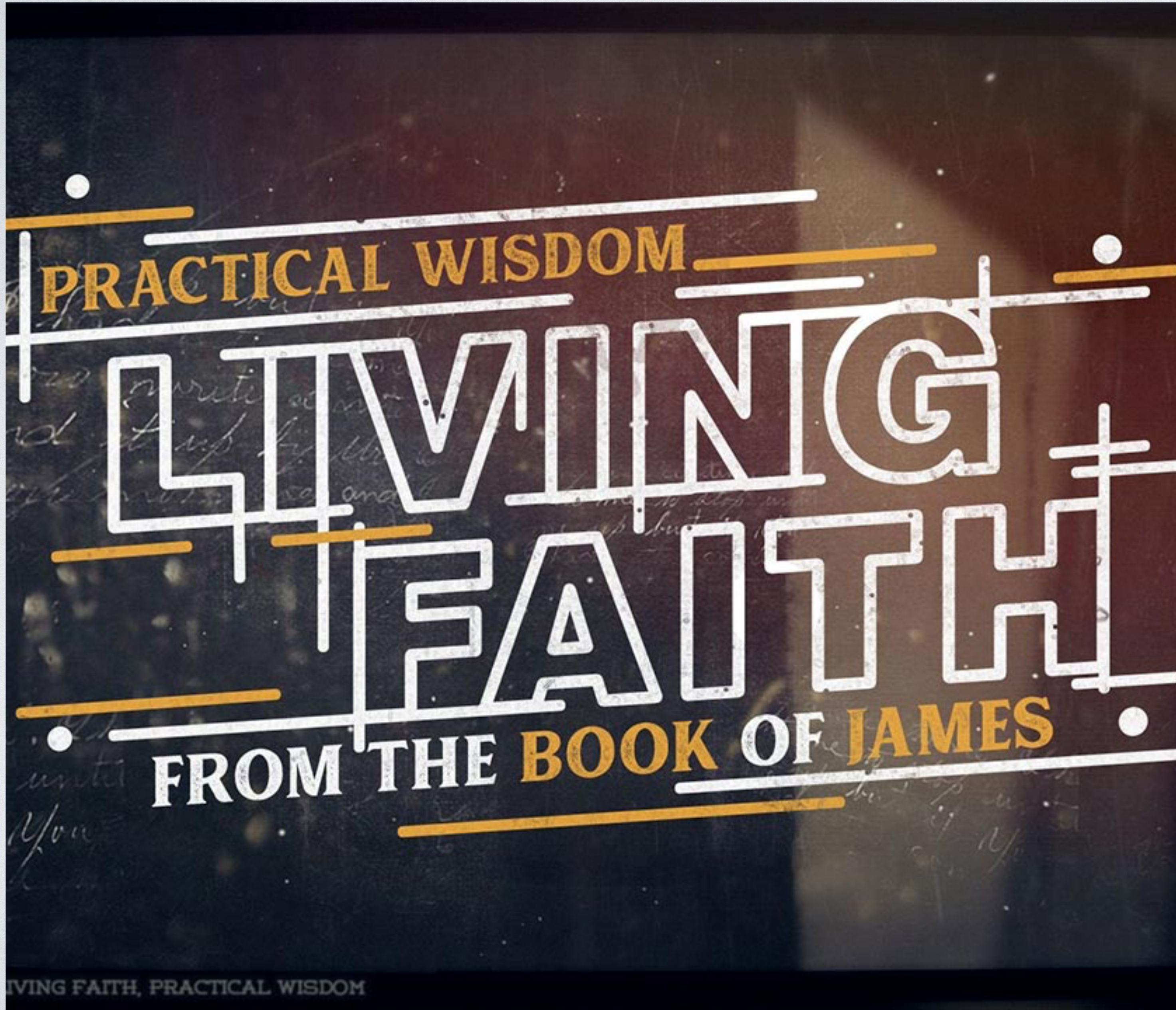


WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. (James 1:13 - NKJV)

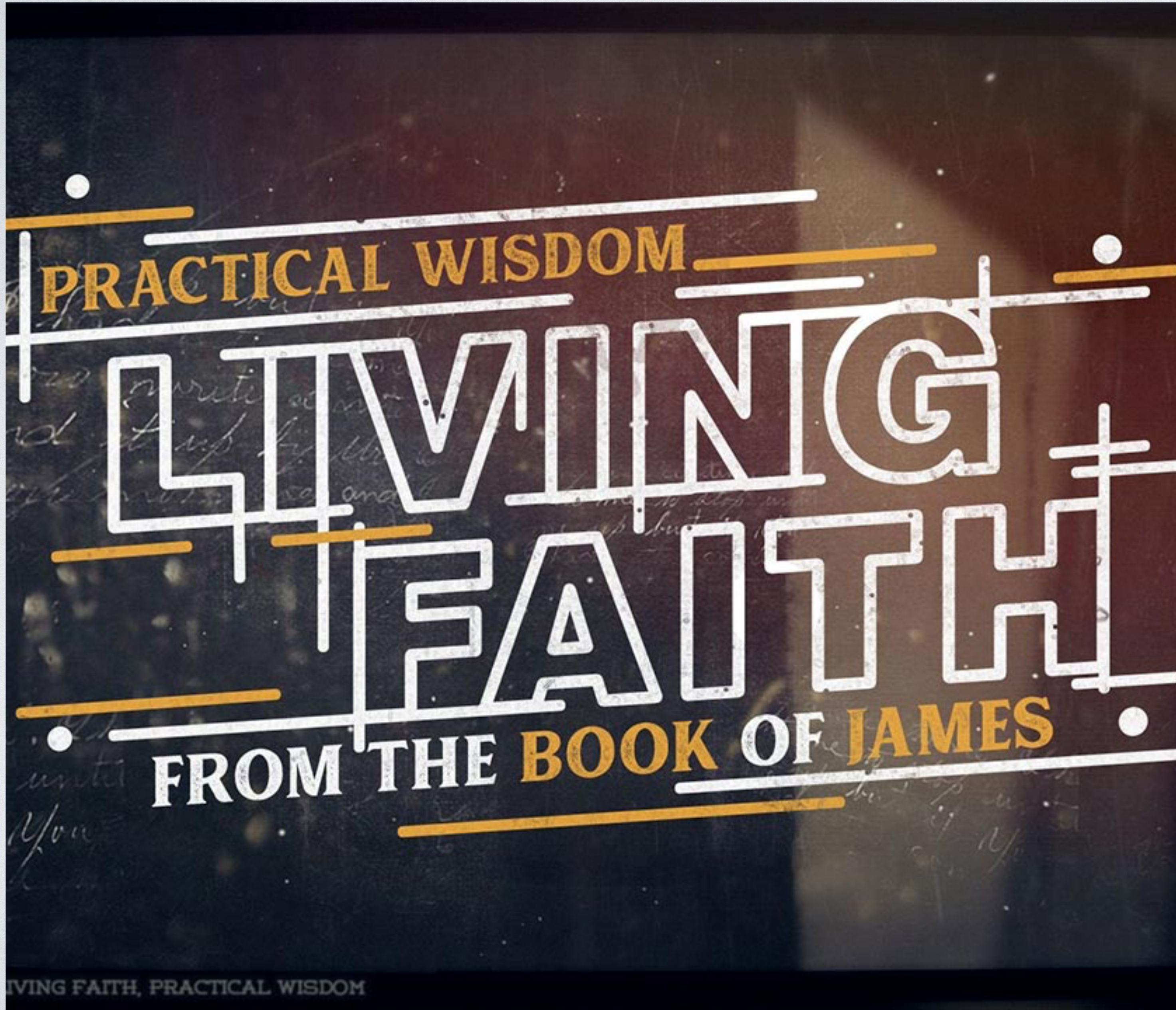
INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM



Epistle of Common Sense

- The value and necessity of faith in every aspect of the Christian's life - especially in view of the challenges and trials of this life!

INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM



- The problem of trials and how Christians should view them (1:2-12)
- The danger of temptation (1:13-16)
- Since all good things come from God - let us NEVER blame Him or be angry with Him for our problems - but rather trust & submit to Him in all things - (1:17-27)

THE POWER

OF GOD'S WORD

A GIFT
EXPOSES
SAVES
EFFECTUAL

1:21

“RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS THE IMPLANTED WORD, WHICH IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS”

LISTEN
REPENT
RECEIVE
OBEY
EXAMINE
KEEP



JAMES 1:17-27

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

James 1:17–27 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. ¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

James 1:17–27 (NKJV)

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of 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 observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

James 1:17–27 (NKJV)

²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

GOD IS THE SOURCE OF GOOD

James 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

CAN'T blame God for the trials and temptations we experience

■ God is the origin and giver of only that which is “good” and “perfect” in His sight — those things which are beneficial and productive towards His purpose and people (Mat. 7:11; Romans 8:28; 2 Pet. 1:3)

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CAN'T blame God for the trials and temptations we experience

- God is the Creator of all light, (i.e., sun, moon, stars, and His revelation), so as to illuminate mans way (cf. Gen. 1:14-18; Psa. 136:7; Jer. 4:23; 31:35; Jn. 17:17; 1 Jn 1:5-8; 2 Tim. 3:16,17;).
- With God there is no fickleness, nor any trace of turning (Mal. 3:6. Ro. 11:29. He. 1:11, 12; 13:8)

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

GOD IS THE SOURCE OF GOOD

James 1:18 (NKJV)
18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

God's greatest gift (1:18)

- “Of His own will” - God's begetting us is of his own free will. He is under no constraint or obligation to man (Jno. 1:12,13; 3:3–5,16; Eph 1:3-6).
- God is the author of this new spiritual beginning and it was borne out of his mercy and love. It was in no sense of human origin (Ep. 2:4, 5, 8-10; Rom. 5:8-10; 11:6; Titus 3:1-5)

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- Vss. 14-15 gives the genealogy of death — Vs. 18 gives the genealogy of LIFE.
- “The word of truth” is God's means of saving, i.e. regenerating men (Acts 2:37; Rom. 1:16,17; 10:14-17; Eph. 1:13; 2 Thes 2:13-15; 1 Pet 1:22-2:3)
- The seed of sin produces death — the seed of God produces life (1 Jn 3:9).

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God's greatest gift (1:18)

- “That we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” — the first, the best, the finest, thus making evident the glory and grace of a loving God by their very existence.
- First of many more to come, (e.g., Christ the firstfruit of all future resurrected beings 1 Cor. 15:20-23).

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Proper Reaction To The WORD (19-27)

James 1:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

So Then [*“Know this” (ESV) or “This you know” (NASB) - (1:19)*]

- Since only good comes from God, (especially His word by which we can be saved), we need to listen to Him and learn His way (Jer. 6:16)
- Many are not good learners because they are not good listeners - (filled with pride & selfishness) (Jer. 6:1-30; Ez 33:1-11; Is. 6:9, 10; Mat. 13:13-15)

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We Need Ears To Hear - (1:19)

- **Swift to hear** (an ear bent to hearing God's word) Prov 2:2; 4:20; 22:17
- **Slow to speak** (Eccl 5:2,3); (control your tongue - refrain from cursing God, His word, your circumstances, or others)
- **Slow to wrath** - Wrath, though not wrong in itself, (cf. Eph 4:26), can prevent an honest investigation of the truth (cf Acts 22:22; 26:9-11).

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We Need Ears To Hear - (1:19)

- The “wrath of man” prevents and destroys the good which God would desire men produce (Prov. 14:17; 16:32; Eccl. 7:9).
- Jesus warned that those who are quick to speak angry words are in danger of the judgment of God (Matt. 5:21-26).

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Proper Reaction To The WORD (19-27)

James 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

“Therefore lay aside” (1:21)

- "Get rid of" - in the original language, means to strip away, to take off (Col. 3:5,8)
- It is in the passive voice meaning that it is something we must do ourselves (Rom 13:12; Eph 4:22; Col. 3:5-8; Heb 12:1; 1 Pet 2:1)

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“Therefore lay aside” (1:21)

- **“All filthiness”** - ῥυπαρία, rhyparia - only here in NT - denotes "dirt, filth" . . . used metaphorically of moral "defilement" - Vine's -
- **“Overflow of wickedness”** - κακία, kakia - primarily, "badness" in quality, denotes (a) "wickedness, depravity, malignity," - Vine's - (cf Rom 13:12; Eph 4:22; Col. 3:5-8)

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“Receive with meekness the implanted word” (1:21)

- **“Receive”** - a deliberate and ready acceptance -(Mat 13:23)
- **“with meekness”** - the opposite of wrath - willing to be taught and led by God (1 Thes 2:13)
- **“The implanted word”** - that which you have been taught (Luke 8:11)

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“Receive with meekness the implanted word” (1:21)

- **“Which is able to save your souls”** - That we may be saved by faith - faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom 10:17; John 6:44,45)
- The gospel is God's power to save (Rom 1:16,17; 1 Cor. 1:18-21)
- Must be held on to (1 Cor 15:2)

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Proper Reaction To The WORD (19-27)

James 1:22
(NKJV)

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

MUST BE DOERS OF THE WORD (1:22)

- We must cooperate with the message, submit to the message, and conform to the message (Luke 6:46; Mat 7:21-23; John 14:15; Heb 5:8,9; 2 Thes. 1:7-9)
- We have a very active role to play in the purposes of God and our own salvation (Phili 2:12; 1 Cor. 15:58)

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MUST BE DOERS OF THE WORD (1:22)

- James is speaking to Christians who have previously been begotten, (vs. 18; Jn. 3:3-5; Acts 2:38).
- Faith must continue to work in the life of a Christian by producing obedience and adherence to the teachings of Christ (Rom. 6:1-23).
- Salvation by Faith ALONE is FALSE!

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Proper Reaction To The WORD (19-27)

James 1:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

DANGER OF BEING DECEIVED (1:23-25)

- The illustration (23-25) - A mirror (polished metal), was effective in revealing the actual condition of the one looking into it. If flaws are ignored and no effort to correct them occurs, the mirror does them no good at all.
- Many look into the mirror of God's word and ignore what it reveals about them. They fail to act upon what they see and it does them no good at all.

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Proper Reaction To The WORD (19-27)

James 1:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY (1:25)

- **“He who looks”** — a very emphatic term, signifying a deep and attentive consideration. This verb (parakuptō) denotes “penetrating absorption”
- **“Into the perfect law of liberty”** — The gospel is NOT exclusive of LAW, but is often spoken of as LAW — God’s Law (Jer. 31:33; Heb. 10:16), Law of the Spirit (Rom. 8:2), Law towards Christ (1 Cor. 9:21), the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2)

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PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY (1:25)

- Delivers from the bondage of sin (John 8:32) This is true liberty!
- Liberated Jews from the Law of Moses (Rom 7; Gal 5:1-4).
- Delivers from the punishment of sin (Rom 5:9)
- It does **NOT** free one from the obligation of obeying Jesus (Luke 6:46; 2 Jn 9; Rom. 6:1-23; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; etc.)

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PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY (1:25)

- “and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work” — he is persistent in this work of faith, (1 Cor. 15:58)
- The word for blessed is makarios, the identical Greek term employed repeatedly in the Lord’s Beatitudes (Mat. 5:3-16)

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James 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless.

“PURE & UNDEFILED RELIGION” (26,27)

- Here at the conclusion of the chapter he reprimands a religious “doing” that leaves the inner life unchanged. The heart is yet deluded and the religion overall is empty because the tongue is unbridled (cf. 3:2–6; Matt. 12:34, 35; Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:8; 1 Pe. 3:10)
- It is difficult to understate the dangers of the tongue! More in chapter 3,

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“PURE & UNDEFILED RELIGION” (26,27)

- We visit, (help) those less fortunate, (orphans and widows) (27; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim 5:3-16)
- We keep ourselves unspotted from the world- (1 John 2:15-17; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Titus 2:11,12; 1 Thes 5:21,22; 1 Pet 4:1-4)

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“PURE & UNDEFILED RELIGION” (26,27)

■ Engaging in religion that is “pure and undefiled” is impossible when the heart is absent of a compassionate caring response towards those who are disadvantaged, AS WELL AS the continual maintenance of morally pure character.

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“RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS THE IMPLANTED WORD, WHICH IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS”

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- 
- HEAR (Romans 10:17)
 - BELIEVE (John 8:24)
 - REPENT (Acts 17:30,31)
 - CONFESS (Matthew 10:32)
 - BE BAPTIZED (Acts 2:38)
 - ENDURE (James 1:25)

JAMES 1:17-27

THE PATH OF SIN

FAITH

WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

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Matthew 7:21–26 (NKJV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Matthew 7:21–26 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: