### Introduction

- James 1:19-27. More proverbial tidbits of wisdom on hearing vs speaking and vain religion vs pure religion
- Genuine belief comes with right actions – beginning with our words
- Our 2-ounce tongue can cause us more trouble in life than anything else we possess

### Passage 1:19-20

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| 1:19-20 | Quick to Hear, Slow to Speak, Slow to Anger  
- We have 2 ears and 1 mouth for a good reason  
- Verbal wounds heal slowly, if at all  
- Our tainted speech and our outbursts of anger might seem trivial to us, but to God these 2 behaviors (evil speech and anger) need to be avoided at all costs |

#### Proverbial Wisdom to Control the Tongue

- **Proverbs 10:19.** Many words lead to sin  
- **Proverbs 11:12.** A wise man knows when to keep silent.  
- **Proverbs 15:28.** A wise man ponders how to answer  
- **Proverbs 16:21,23.** Sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness

#### Ecclesiastes 8:5. A wise man knows the proper time and proper way to respond

| 1:20 | Be Angry, But Sin Not  
- Anger is a God-given emotion. Used properly it forces the angry person to take action against sin  
- Used improperly it tries to manipulate, control, or just simply releases hot steam on innocent victims  
- But such anger only makes things worse since it does not and cannot accomplish God’s will |

**BUT, How Do We Fix Tough Problems without Stern Words?**

- Jesus called the Pharisees Vipers & Hypocrites ..........Mat 23:13,33  
- Jesus had to chase people out of church......................Mat 21:13  
- Jesus even called Peter, Satan..................................Mat 16:23  
- Paul called the Corinthians a big bunch of babies ..........1Cor 3:1  
- Paul opposed Peter face to face .................................Gal 2:11

#### Consider this: When we find ourselves using “strong language” are we correcting sin, causing sin, or committing sin? **Know the Diff.**

| 1:21-22 | Replace Bad Habits with Good Habits  
- v21a. Put aside filthiness. James, like Paul, doesn’t say we should think about our sin, talk about it, or even pray about it. He says STOP IT. Flip the switch off!  
- v21a. Receive God’s Word. IOW, replace bad habits with good habits from God’s Word  
  - E.g., He that steals, should stop stealing, start working with his hands, start giving ..........Eph 4:28  
  - E.g., He that is angry, stop, listen, be encouraging  
  - E.g., He that ______. STOP, START ______ | ______  
- v22. Prove yourselves doers of God’s Word ..........HOW?  
- Live It – Walk It – Talk It – Think It – Share It

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| 1:23-25 | Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall...  
- v23. “natural face” – literally, “genesis” – we see ourselves as we really are, warts and all  
- Would we want to go outside with an ugly blemish?  
- v24. A doer of the Word of God does not forget what was heard from the word of God  
- We need to fix what is broke  
- We need every blessing we can get, so we cannot afford to live with our cancers, blemishes  
- Let’s be on the lookout for sins that weigh us down and get rid of them |
| 1:26 | Your Baby is Ugly...  
- James calls the baby ugly – if we use our tongue maliciously, our faith is in vain  
- So, how do we fix ugly problems?  
  - First, PRAY. Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips ..................Ps 141:3  
  -HOW does God do this?  
  - Second, CONFESS........................................1John 1:9  
  - Third, Repent ➔ Commit to live a holy life  
  -DO What It Takes ➔ & what would that involve?  
  - Fourth, Repeat Steps 1-3 till victory is achieved |
| 1:27 | Pure, Undefiled Religion  
- The Bible in its simplest form ➔ take care of the weak and avoid sin. Who are the weak? Just anyone?  
- BUT, are there conditions before helping the helpless?  
  - Prove All things (prodigal behavior) .......... 1Thes 5:21  
  - He that doesn’t work, doesn’t eat............. 2Thes 3:10  
  - Even God shows no pity to wicked orphans and widows ...........................................Isaiah 9:17

### Conclusion / Applications

- To be a doer of the Word of God, we must be a hearer first  
- And, if we love the word of God, we will be in it frequently

### Next Week: James 2. Life gets complicated when we are prejudiced

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**Controlling My Tongue Is No Problem.**

**It’s My Face That Needs Deliverance!**