

*James: A Faith You Can See*

**Stop - Look - Listen**

James 1:19-27

Live a Reflective Life, Not a Reactive Life

Remember evil lies within wanting to direct your response; so first stop, look, and listen before responding, v. 19.

Remember anger is always evil's response to offenses, real or imagined, by others, vv. 19-20.

Triggers to anger: violation of rights, disappointments, blocked goals, irritations, feeling misunderstood, unrealistic expectations, pathological anger.

Anger's expression; the maniac, the mute, the martyr, the manipulator.

Anger never produces the righteousness of God, v. 20.

Reject all the ways evil wants to poison and pollute you and your responses to others, v. 21.

Fill your mind to lead your heart with the living Word of God that brings the power to truly transform souls and behavior, v. 21.

Live a Transformed Life, Not a Life Stuck in Repetitive Ruts

Don't look at yourself and forget that you are powerless on your own to live out the will of God, and knowing you will on your own continue in patterns that are unhealthy, vv. 22-24.

Look to Jesus and His Word that has the power, through trust and obedience, to truly transform your life, v. 25.

Live a Pure Life, Not A Polluted Life

Remember words are full of the power of life and death; use them carefully, v. 26.

Words are our most basic form of communication with others.

Remember the goodness and kindness of God and let that lead you in your actions in life, v. 27.

God has a special passion for His children to care for the vulnerable and needy; widows and orphans in their times of need, v. 27.

Don't let the pollutions of the world pollute your soul, attitudes, or actions, v. 27.

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**Next Weekend's Scripture Emphasis**

James 2:1-13

**Welcome to Rolling Hills Covenant Church!**

We are a caring community of people who believe the Bible is the Word of God and choose to live by its truth.

**Our mission is to know Jesus intimately and to share His love and truth passionately.**

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**June 30-July 1, 2018**

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Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald

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Following each worship service, members of the prayer team will be available in front of the platform to pray with you and minister to your spiritual needs.

Receivers for the hearing impaired are available from our ushers.

***JOIN US NEXT WEEKEND!***

**SATURDAY: 5pm** - Worship Center

**SUNDAY: 8 & 9:30am** - Worship Center (Choir)

**9:30am** - 290s

**11:15am** - Worship Center & 290s

***LANGUAGE OPTIONS:***

**RHCC en Español**  
Saturday, 5pm, 290s

**Japanese Service**  
Sunday, 11:15am  
North Campus Chapel



**ARE YOU NEW TO RHCC?** Maybe you've been here a while and want to learn more about us. We invite you to come to our *Connect* lunch on Sunday, July 22 at 11:15 am in the Loft. You will be welcomed by our staff, learn about the church's purpose and priorities, and connect with others who are also exploring the church. Come to the Connect tent on the patio for more info.

**For more information about what is going on at RHCC this month, pick up a copy of *What's Happening*.**

#### **Patriotic Celebration**

Invite your friends and family to join us on Sunday, July 1 at 7 pm for this popular patriotic musical celebration featuring our Sanctuary Choir, children's choir, and orchestra, along with the Marine Corps Color Guard.

#### **Join the Children's Ministries Team!**

Be part of a dedicated team of volunteers helping our kids learn about Jesus. You can serve every weekend or just once a month. Summer and Fall opportunities are available. Come to the table out on the patio following services for more information.

#### **DivorceCare**

Divorce can be the most painful and stressful experience you may ever face. Taught by those who have already walked through it, come learn practical, prayerful, and helpful tools to help you move forward in a healthy way. This 13-week program meets Sundays, 9:30 to 11 am in Room 280. You can join at any time.

#### **Jobs Available**

- Information Technology Director (F/T)
  - Global Outreach Admin. Asst. (P/T)
- Go to [RollingHillsCovenant.com/jobs](http://RollingHillsCovenant.com/jobs) for info.

**We're here for you!** The pastoral staff at RHCC is available to help you with your marriage, finances, parenting, emotional issues, or if you are in need of prayer. We can also provide recommendations for Christian counseling services in the South Bay. Contact Pastor Nate Aanderud at 310.521.2565 or [naanderud@rhcc.net](mailto:naanderud@rhcc.net).

#### **Singles Coffee House**

Singles are invited to come to the North Campus Chapel on Friday, July 13 at 7:30 pm as Pastor Vance Hartzell speaks on "Why Dating is Hard."

#### **Missionary Needs**

Nancy Manoly is in need of a car and housing July 12-23. Contact Nandi at [nroszhart@rhcc.net](mailto:nroszhart@rhcc.net) or 310.521.5274 if you can help.

#### **Prayer Ministry**

**Prayer Chain:** Submit prayer requests to Vicki Hardin at [Chaplain\\_Vicki@aol.com](mailto:Chaplain_Vicki@aol.com) or 310.612.7832, by yellow card or at [RollingHillsCovenant.com/prayer](http://RollingHillsCovenant.com/prayer).

**Need a hospital or home visit?** Call the Ministers of Congregational Care at 323.825.9694.

#### **Weekly Giving Report (as of June 24)**

Giving goal (6/1/18-5/31/19):	\$7,930,000
Budget Needs YTD:	\$487,929
Received YTD:	\$518,009
Over/Under YTD:	\$30,080
Needed last week:	\$121,982
Received last week:	\$104,890

*Text any amount to 310.307.3661 to give.*

In the Christian life of walking with Jesus, there are two ways to go. One way is to get as good as you can make yourself. The other is to become as good as the Holy Spirit can make you as you live in an abiding relationship with Jesus. We are seeing those who want to remain in the category of staying only as good as a person can make oneself as a major factor in the daily lives of those to whom James is writing. James is very aware that even as genuine Christians we still have the presence of evil within us seeking to be the controlling power in our lives. The word the Bible uses to describe where evil lives within us is "flesh". Flesh is another way of describing each of us on our own power. As Christians, even when we want to do right or not to do wrong, on our own we don't have the spiritual power to do it. It's because we are weakened by sin.

One person who had to learn the weakness of his flesh was the Apostle Peter. On the night Jesus was betrayed, He warned Peter that he would deny Him (Jesus) three times before morning. Peter said he would never do that and would even die with Jesus. When Jesus took him with Him to the garden to pray, Peter slept instead of praying. Jesus came to him and said something that is profoundly important. Jesus said to Peter, as written in Matthew 26:40, "Watch and pray that you may not enter temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Jesus did not doubt Peter's love or commitment but He just knew Peter didn't have, on his own, the spiritual power to overcome the temptations and trials of daily life. And just as Peter didn't have the spiritual power, neither do you or I.

One way of picturing myself trying to live on my own power is using one of the inflated figures that are used as decorations. Near my home at Christmas time there was a house that had about three inflatables in their yard. When the inflatables are plugged in they are full and alive with a light lit from the inside. But when I would go by in the morning they would be laying flat and lifeless. They had no

inner strength or light without it being plugged into a source. It is the same way for us in our daily lives. We have a continual need for the Holy Spirit to be filling and empowering us. As Christians, while the Holy Spirit never leaves us, He is only able to empower us as we seek His enabling strength, Ephesians 5:18.

The problem is that too many Christians don't live depending on the enabling strength of the Holy Spirit, using the Word of God and our trust in Him in daily lives. We have Christians who may have had some initial growth as the excitement of first being a Christian took over, but then they settle in to a life of not really growing in Christ. Year after year they live with the same defeating weakness where they just grow old, rather than growing in the likeness of Jesus. They may hear the Word of God but it never really changes them because it is only met by their self effort. These are the ones James describes as being only hearers of the Word.

The joy in the Christian life is discovering that while you are too weakened by sin to live out this life of Christ, Jesus is ready to empower you by the Holy Spirit to live a life of increasing levels of transformation into the likeness of Jesus. For me, change began to happen as I started each day with a time of Bible reading and prayer. I began to seek the strength the Holy Spirit gives. I sought help in putting off the things, in my actions, which were not like Jesus. I sought the help of putting on the things that were like Jesus in character and actions. I began the practice of reflecting at night at how the day had gone. I began to be more conscious, during the day, of my need for the grace, wisdom, and strength in specific areas of behavior. If this hasn't been your practice to start out each day with Jesus in Bible reading and prayer, why not start now? Let's move past only being as good as we can make ourselves, and move **with Jesus** in seeing how good He can make us.

~ Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald