



August 3, 2025
Series: Week 7
Pastor Josh
www.lebefree.org

A Life Surrendered to Jesus Obeys What He Says (James 1)

A Life Surrendered to Jesus... (James 1:1-21)

1.) ... Sees Him as Savior and Lord (1:1a)

- James said he was a “doulos,” which translates as “slave” or “servant” in English.
- He was the brother of Jesus, and could have introduced himself as such, gaining immediate status with his readers.
- But he chooses instead to place himself under the authority of Jesus. In this introduction he is already preaching a Gospel message to his audience. This infers that:
 - Jesus has paid for freedom from sin, through His substitutionary death on the cross.
 - Jesus is the “Lord” (“Kyrios”) who sets the standards and makes the rules.
 - Jesus is the only One that can be trusted to lead us on the path of eternal truth and life.

Consider:

- What titles would you use to describe your relationship with Jesus? Why?
- Do you trust Jesus enough to take the title of “doulos,” a lowly slave or surrendered servant, and to name Him as your “Kyrios,” your Lord and primary authority?

2.) ... Listens exclusively to His voice (1:1b-21)

- James encourages the believers that God can use these difficult circumstances in our lives to bring about “great joy”(2), and a growing endurance.
- This comes from experiencing the presence, peace, and power of our living and active God in the midst of our circumstances. (James 1:5-8, Joshua 1:9, Duet 31:6, Matthew 28:22)
- We must also understand that this life is not the end, and that there will be a place with perfect understanding, and perfect restoration of all things that have been broken by the curse of sin. (12)
- In verse 18, the word for “word” is “logos.” It is referring here to the fullness of God’s truth revealed through scripture, but also, we must remember the focus of our hyperlink series back in the spring, that all of God’s Word ultimately points to the person and work of Jesus. (John 1)

Consider:

- What “voices” can the enemy use to distract us?
 - The voice of our past failures
 - The voice of our current frustrations
 - The voice of our future fears
- What truth and encouragement would be helpful for you to remember when these enemy voices begin to speak? Perhaps this week, write down some scripture that can help to guide and guard you in times of struggle.

... Obeys What He Says (James 22-27)

- James is first and foremost telling believers that they will, *as a result of* their true faith, reflect the salvation that is already theirs in Christ. Obedience does not earn God’s love and acceptance; it’s a result of the love and acceptance given by Jesus that naturally takes root in a believer’s life and flows out to the world.
- The term “religion” (26-27) used here is “threskeia” in the Greek. It’s only used four times in the NT and refers to ritual acts of worship that show commitment to God. In other words, *the way you live shows who you worship*.

A Person of “Pure Religion” (living in such a way that truly worships God):

1.) Controls the tongue (19-20, 26)

-The word for “control,” “chalino,” here is aligned with the words used for the bit, bridle, and reins that direct a horse.
“I want to do and say the right thing, in the right way, at the right time.” David Patrick

Consider:

-When have you last felt that your tongue was out of control? Was it because of anger, fear, envy, competition, etc.? When was the last time you felt that you wanted to say something, but had the ability to pause and consider if it was coming from a “righteous” place? What helped you have control in that situation?

***When we control our tongue, we are worshipping God by placing our thoughts and emotions under His control.
We also can bring life to the world around us by articulating His truth in the right way at the right time.***

2.) Cares for the vulnerable (27a)

-The Greek word for “care” is “episkeptomai.” It practically means the following:

- To have compassion and concern
- To go and see while being present
- To look after or provide for

-James specifically mentions the orphan and the widow here, because they were the most vulnerable in the culture of the day. The church took this very seriously, beginning practical care ministries as documented in Acts 6.

Consider:

-Who are the most vulnerable in your day-to-day life? How might you “care” for them? Now, expand the circle. Are there those outside of your day-to-day that God may be laying on your heart to “care” for? What might be your most practical next step?

When we care for the vulnerable, we are worshipping God by believing that He created all people in His image, and desires that all people be valued, loved, and connected to His Kingdom’s transforming work.

3.) Cleanses the heart of corruption (21, 27b)

-This part of “Doing” what God’s word says focuses on our interior life. It is not enough for us to only do outward shows of our devotion and worship to God.

-Our internal reasoning matters and is in constant need for evaluation. Ultimately, this comes back again to a question of worship. “Who will get the glory from this deed?” “Do I think I am owed something after I did something ‘right’?”

-It is also important to look at how we act when we don’t think anyone else is looking. Truly, simply believing that there are moments of no one looking is to block out your belief that God sees you and knows you, and wants to live in every moment with you.

Consider:

-How often throughout your day are you aware of the presence of God? Have you ever felt Him give you courage or strength to do the right thing, even when your “flesh” wanted to do something else? Have there been times where you have tried to block Him out of your mind in order to choose a sinful path?

When we cleanse our heart of corruption, we are worshipping God by entrusting Him with our deepest thoughts, motivations, and desires, as we live with a growing awareness of His ever-present love.

Further Study:

-Take time this week to look over the “consider” questions. Ask them to yourself in the Lord’s presence and answer them truthfully. Then, perhaps sharing your answers with a friend can help you to apply any wisdom you are chasing.

-This month, join our journey through James by reading each of the five chapters in preparation for each Sunday! And perhaps, invite someone else to join you in this discovery of wisdom from God’s Word!