



- The process of maturity is the process of becoming **like Jesus**.

29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son... James 8:29

- Faith isn't proven by what you **say**, it's proven by how you **live**.

Real Faith:

19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. James 1:19-20

- Real faith controls our **mouth** and our **mood**.

Whoever answers before listening is both foolish and shameful. Proverbs 18:13
Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool. Ecclesiastes 7:9

20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. James 1:20

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Luke 6:45

And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry. Ephesians 4:26

Action Steps:

Ask God to **help you**.

Be aware that when your mood goes south your **words will follow**.

21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. James 1:21

- Real faith releases the things that **harm** us and embraces the thing that **transforms** us.

8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Colossians 3:8
Galatians 5:19-21

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12

Action Steps:

Take **inventory** of things that you need to deal with.

Commit to spending time in **God's Word**.

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. James 1:22-25

- Real faith doesn't just know the Word, it **obeys** the Word.

Action Steps:

Ask yourself after reading: What is the one thing I must **obey** today because of what I just read?

Tell **someone** what the scripture exposed in you within 24 hours; Ask them to pray for you and keep you **accountable**.

26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. 27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:26-27

...keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence. James 1:27b(NCV)

- Real faith walks like **Jesus**.

Action Steps:

Choose to **speak with grace** to others.

Serve someone who cannot **repay** you.

Remove one **worldly influence** that's pulling your heart from Jesus.

VISION:

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What does it mean to you that spiritual maturity is becoming more like Jesus rather than simply knowing more about Him?
- James says to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." Which of those is most challenging for you, and why?
- Jesus said our words reveal what's in our hearts (Luke 6:45). What do your words tend to reveal when you're under pressure?
- James says to get rid of what harms us and humbly receive God's Word. What can keep us from fully receiving what God wants to say to us?
- What does it look like to let God's Word examine you instead of simply reading it?
- Why do you think James says hearing God's Word without obeying it is self-deception?
- Can you share a time when obeying a difficult Scripture led to freedom or spiritual growth?
- James describes pure religion as controlling the tongue, caring for the vulnerable, and staying unstained by the world. Which of those do you think Christians struggle with most today? Why?
- How can our daily lives provide evidence that our faith is genuine to people who don't know Jesus?
- After studying this passage, what is one area where you sense God inviting you to become more like Jesus this week?

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Today's Talk..



What Real Faith Looks Like

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