

# **James: Faith That Works: Faith in Action**

## **Day 1**

### **Patience**

In order to allow God to work in our lives, we must learn to be patient with the process of transformation. Transformation occurs as we are tested and tried, and through that process have our weaknesses discovered and addressed. We must learn to allow God to speak to us through the world that he created, and we must learn to listen to the faults and flaws that are being rooted out through the process of trials. One way of putting this into practice in a very real sense is to learn to listen to others. This devotional will help us to begin to do just that:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/give-others-the-gift-of-being-slow-to-speak>

*Verses: James 1:19, Romans 10:17, Proverbs 2:2*

*Prayer Topics: Attentiveness, Understanding, Grace*

## **Day 2**

### **Dealing with Anger**

When we encounter the world, the natural result for most of us is some level of anger. The world does not cooperate with us, but produces thorns and thistles that disrupt our plans and create pain and unpleasantness. The problem is that the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. This is not to say that anger is wrong or sinful in itself, for if that were the case God himself would be guilty of sin since God pours out his wrath from time to time in scripture. The bible is making a distinction here between divine anger and the anger we usually feel as humans. Divine anger is appropriate, just, measured, and effective. When God is angry he is always angry appropriately, meaning that he has the right to be angry since it is his will that should be followed. Many times we are angry over something that we have no right to make a claim against. When I am angry over slow drivers in front of me, I do not actually have the right to determine the speed of others, so my anger is not appropriate. The anger of God is just, meaning that it is the result of injustice and its aim is to bring about a state of justice. God not only has the right to be angry, but his anger is geared toward creating a better world. God's anger is also measured, meaning he has the right amount of anger over the issue at

hand, My anger may sometimes be justified, meaning it lines up with the anger of God, but many times the amount of anger I experience is not at the level that it should be. I am sometimes not as angry as a thing deserves, but more often than not I am more angry than I should be. Most of the time this is because my pride is wrapped up in my anger, so that when a wrong that is truly wrong is done to me, I am much more angry than when it is done to someone else. Finally, God's anger is effective and mine usually isn't. God's anger brings about a better world, where mine rarely does. My anger will only accomplish something good once it is replaced, and instead it becomes righteous and Godly. Because we live in a fallen world we must not get rid of anger completely, but our human brand of anger must be replaced by anger that conforms to the righteousness of God. The first result of that anger will most likely be that we are no longer comfortable with our own sin, and we will find a compelling distinction made between the sin and the sinner. The result will be a life that is conformed to the image of Christ and shows greater love toward others. Until our anger accomplishes this, we must set it aside.

*Verses: James 1:20, Psalm 37:8, Proverbs 29:11*

*Prayer Topics: Expectations, Justice, Trust*

### **Day 3**

#### **Holiness**

James tells us that real religion includes the serving of the most vulnerable as well as personal holiness. Many times we feel like we can skip the personal holiness and make up for its lack by more grandiose service, but this is a mistake. Check out this article to begin to understand why:

<https://www.paultripp.com/articles/posts/the-doctrine-of-holiness-article>

*Verses: Hebrews 12:14, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Peter 2:9*

*Prayer Topics: Purification, Glorification, Transformation*

### **Day 4**

#### **Serving**

It is important to understand the necessity of the two greatest commands working in concert. Scripture tells us we are to love God and love our neighbors, and the high priest was dressed in robes of glory and beauty as he did his service in the temple. The point of this is that service cannot be divided from personal holiness, that is the love of man and the love of God must be connected. We must not let our love for God make us blind to the problems of earth, and we must not let our love of others rebellious to the God of holiness. Here are a few ways to make sure our service is connected to virtue:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/eager-compassion-in-practice>

*Verses: Leviticus 19:18, John 13:34, Luke 6:31*

*Prayer Topics: Incorporation, Generosity, Boundaries*

## **Day 5**

**Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today**

When we enter into a covenant relationship with God in and through Christ Jesus we're not entering into a relationship to remain the same as when we entered. As a matter of fact God refuses to leave us the way He finds us. God redeems us for His good pleasure by being His living witnesses in this world where Satan's throne is. We know that Satan's mission is to steal, kill and destroy people, people he had no part in creating because he's not God and therefore doesn't have the power to create life. It's precisely because of sin there's so much pain and hopelessness in this world we live in, however, there's hope and good news because of the power of the gospel. The gospel that redemptive power of God that saves and liberates us from ourselves from the grip of the evil one so that He can send us out into a world that's in rebellion while crying out for Him but not recognizing Him due to deceit and a lack of knowledge. This tells us that true religion isn't confined to a building where people gather but rather practiced under the canopy of heaven God's sanctuary because the church is in the heart of all called by His name and God has placed His church in the world to affect the hearts of men by leading them to the cross as He builds the kingdom of heaven in the hearts of men. The sad reality is people are leaving the institutional church in droves and it has been estimated that tens of thousands of mega churches will close this year alone and the reason this is sad is because God is weeping just like He

wept over Jerusalem, He's weeping because people don't have to live life without Him when He's available to whosoever call upon His name. Faith in action is loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves meaning we don't live in isolation but in community. Just like God wants what's best for us we likewise should want what's best for our neighbors and what's best for us all is Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior richly dwelling in our hearts unapologetically.