

**A TIME TO GROW UP**  
**"Worth While Religion"**  
**James 1:26-27**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** People need to see our faith in action.

2. **Vs 26-27**

3. **"Worthless Religion"** doesn't take us where we need to go.

4. **"Worthless Religion"** is like a fruit tree, that doesn't produce fruit.

5. True faith is **"pure"** - unmixed and clean.

a) And **"undefiled"** - means not polluted or stained.

6. **Vs 27**

a) **"Religion"** - is a synonym for genuine faith.

b) The word **"Religion"** - refers to external or ceremonial observances.

c) **A clean and undefiled religion** is one in which conduct and character are disciplined according to God's Word.

7. **QUESTION:** SO HOW DO WE MAKE OUR FAITH MORE VALUABLE TO GOD?

8. **ANSWER:** It's important to understand that James is not talking about lost people who never darken the doors of a church!!!

a) These verses are written to believers!

1) These believers were going through all the hocus pocus of church.

2) Going through a lot of religious motions (Going to church, put some change in the offering, reading their Bibles).

b) But **the question was whether or not their faith (Religion) was worth anything.**

c) **QUESTION:** *Is our faith worth anything?* Is it genuine?

1) Is it genuine in God's eyes.

d) **James 1:25**

9. **God's main concern is not how many Bible verses you have memorized.**

a) Or how many Bible Conferences you have attended.

b) Or your Sunday School perfect attendance pins.

10. God wants to know what you are doing with what you have.

a) Vs 21

1) *"receive with meekness the implanted Word"*

11. **HOWEVER** - Our Vertical relationship with God should be affecting our horizontal relationship with people.

12. Vs 27

a) *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God."*

1) *"pure"* - clean, genuine

2) *"undefiled"* - unpolluted or contaminated by the world

13. Vs 26

a) *"If anyone thinks he is religious"*

### THREE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE WILL BEAR WITNESS OF GENUINE RELIGION

#### I. A CONTROLLED TONGUE

1. Vs 26

a) *"but if anyone thinks he is religious"*

1) Because of his activity.

b) *"and does not bridle his tongue"*

#### A. USING A BIT

1. Vs 26

a) *"and does not bridle his tongue"*

2. What's the problem with an unbridled tongue?

a) That faith (religion) is worthless.

3. An out of control tongue is like an out of control horse.

a) You put a bit in its mouth and rein it in.

#### B. COLLATERAL DAMAGE WITH THE TONGUE

1. *James 4:11*

2. When we speak against another believer we speak against God's Word.

3. Vs 25

a) "*he will be blessed in his doing*"

4. Many Christians are forfeiting their blessings because of out of an out-of-control tongue.

5. Vs 21

a) "*the implanted Word*"

6. When the Word is taking root it ought to bear fruit....in our tongues.

### **C. MOTIVATION OF THE TONGUE**

1. Are you helping or hurting others with your tongue.

a) Are you building up? Or tearing down?

2. *Ephesians 4:29*

3. *Romans 1:26-32*

### **D. TRANSFORMATION OF THE TONGUE**

1. When the Word of God and the Holy Spirit of God take a hold of your life.

a) There will be no problem controlling your life.

2. *James 1:20*