

### **FAITH IN ACTION STANDS ON THE WORD**

**Greetings:** In the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 7:24-27**, Jesus shares that it is the wise who build their house on the rock. They are the ones who, upon hearing the words of Jesus, then act on those words. They put their **faith into action** and stand on the word.

**JAMES 1:13-27:** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. <sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. <sup>17</sup> Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. <sup>18</sup> In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures. <sup>19</sup> *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror: <sup>24</sup> for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does. <sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man’s religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**This passage of scripture reflects the sentiments of Jesus’s conclusion from His sermon quite well, especially beginning in James 1:17 through the end of the chapter.** The “let no man say he is tempted” section may at first glance seem not to fit the topic of *Faith in Action Stands on the Word*; however, the early disciples knew well the temptation story and victory of Jesus— which precedes His Sermon on the Mount. They knew how Jesus overcame His testing and that was by standing on the Word!

In context, the remaining verses beginning in 1:17 should be understood with the proper lens of God’s word being a major premise behind each verse. For example, a *perfect gift* is God’s Word; *He brought us forth* (we are born again) by God’s Word; we should *be quick to hear*— God’s Word; etc.

So... let us put our *faith in action* and stand on the Word.

### **STAND ON GOD’S WORD WHEN TEMPTED... 1:13-16**

- Being tempted is not sin.
  - Jesus was tempted. **Matthew 4:1-11**

- He was fully human to grasp our weakness yet refused to bite on the temptation and overcame the evil one by stating “*It is written...*”
  - Our Lord demonstrates for *man* how to prevail over temptation.
  - So, what Jesus (in His humanity) was teaching by example is how to overcome tests in life by using the Word of God.
- Temptations, Tests, and Trials are similar in origin.
    - All three of these words come from the same word in the Greek {peirazo}.
    - The word has the notion of **pressure**.
    - Context determines which word may be used in the English.

### STAND ON GOD’S WORD BECAUSE IT IS GOOD AND PERFECT... 1:17-21

- God is the source of all good; the Lord Himself is good and perfect—the perfect gift for mankind.
  - God also gave us His perfect word which cannot be broken. ***Psalm 19:7, John 10:35***
  - Neither God nor His word will change—they are both complete, where *there is no variation, or shifting shadow. 1:17*
- God’s good Word, the word of truth, brings forth new birth. **1:18**
  - The word of truth is perfect seed from which one is born again. ***Luke 8:11, 1 Peter 1:23***
  - The implanted word *is able to save your souls. 1:21*
  - God gives us free will to choose to receive His word or to reject it.
  - Why do so many reject this perfect gift?
- The people of God should be most receptive to the Word of God. **1:19**
  - *Be quick to hear* God’s word. Above all voices—listen to Him!
  - *Slow to speak...* Completely digest the word and be diligent, yet cautious in the teaching of it. **3:1**
  - *Slow to anger*, {orge} deep-seated resentment, i.e., do not have a resentment against the truth. Don’t change the word, let the Word change you, which brings about *the righteousness of God*.
- Being willing to listen and learn is the first step in obedience.
  - *Put aside filthiness and wickedness. 1:21*
  - Filthiness {rhuparia} is like wax in the ear that needs to be cleaned out. A man’s own sins can make him deaf to God.

### STAND ON GOD’S WORD—JUST DO IT ! 1:22-27

- We are responsible for acting on God’s direction.
  - The direction from James is clear to understand, but how are we accomplishing it in our daily lives?



- Are there any areas in our lives that we *delude* ourselves in hearing the word but not doing? (Pause and let each individual ponder this question.)
- We get ready in the morning by looking in the mirror. What is the purpose of a mirror, and how does a mirror apply to standing on the word? **1:22**
- James describes true religion that God accepts. Just do it!
  - Keep a tight rein on your tongue. **1:26, (3:1-12 —Lesson 6)**
  - Look after orphans and widows. **1:27**
  - Keep from being polluted by the world. **1:27, (4:1-6 —Lesson 7)**
- The Word of God is the answer. He is the foundation on which we stand.
  - It is wisdom.
  - It is perfection.
  - It is salvific.
  - It is freedom.
 (Notice change from *He* to *it* to reflect the double meaning of the Word.)

### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What areas might there be in our lives and fellowship that need foundation repair? How do we identify these areas?
- ❖ Being willing to listen and learn is the first step in obedience. What *filthiness* (wax in the ears) needs removing sometimes so that we hear God's word properly?
- ❖ Why is God's word identified as the *perfect* law?
- ❖ How is our obedience to God's Word the source of freedom? Another way of stating it is: Why are bond servants of God truly free?
- ❖ Some cases of early Gentiles being polluted by the world identified in Acts 15:29 include 1) abstain from meat offered to idols, 2) from blood, 3) things strangled, 4) sexual immorality. What are four issues in today's society that we need to be reminded of to keep from being stained by the world?

### Prayer



