



**FAITH PRODUCES
RIGHTEOUSNESS**
3rd of the FAITH THAT SHOWS
Series
James 1: 19-27

Faith can be that internal strength flowing from a strong belief in God. But faith is not entirely inward; it manifests itself outwardly. In fact, faith is not just an abstract ideal but is manifested by words, actions and decisions.

Unless proven by deeds, our faith is dead. In the last weeks, we learned that

1. **Faith manifests joy when tested.**
2. **Faith relies on wisdom provided by God**

FAITH PRODUCES RIGHTEOUSNESS

After several admonitions to the believers including (1) consider it pure joy when they face trials of many kinds and (2) to ask from God wisdom if lacking in it, James further exhorted them “to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” The phrase “take note of this” invites the readers to carefully think about these admonitions either as additional prescriptions or important reinforcements to the earlier ideas he already presented. Either way these admonitions are to be carefully considered and applied if the believer is to become righteous. James added, “everyone should be”, asserting the fact that every believer is expected to do these additional admonitions.

This leads us to the third reality about faith:
FAITH PRODUCES RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Faith in God brings about righteousness. Our belief in God will definitely result in Christlike attitudes that are reflected in our way of life. Unless righteousness is evident in our life, it is impossible to prove that we are really filled with faith.

If righteousness is produced by real faith, what quality of faith should we look for in our lives so that we can reflect the “righteousness that God desires”?

RESPONSIVE FAITH: Faith that is quick to listen

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Responsive faith is readily accepting the wisdom from God’s word: “*humbly accept* the word planted in you, which can save you.”

Responsive faith is intently listening to the Word with immediate application will bring blessing:

- ²¹ Therefore, **get rid of all moral filth** and the evil that is so prevalent
- ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.** ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.
- ²²⁻²⁴ Don’t fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. **Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don’t act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.** (THE MESSAGE)

REFLECTIVE FAITH: Slow to Speak

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

- **To be “slow to speak” is to carefully reflect on what we have heard**
- **Careful tongue shows righteousness**
 - Religion that is acceptable to God as pure and faultless go beyond words.
 - Righteousness evidenced not by mere talk but by deeds
- **Loose tongue reveals worthless religion**
 - Unmanaged tongue is a proof of worthless religion

RESILIENT FAITH: Slow to Become Angry

“...slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

- To be resilient is to be able to spring back after being pressured. A resilient person is able to respond positively even when there are situations that agitate him to anger.
- Anger is a natural human emotion but it does not produce the righteousness that God desires

- Ephesians 4:26 “In your anger do not sin”:Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

- A resilient faith is able to keep calm under pressure. Situations can boil us up but a person who believes in God springs back to see the good that God is accomplishing and looks forward to the righteousness that God is developing in him.

CONCLUSION

Faith shows. It manifests joy when tested, relies on wisdom provided by God, and produces righteous lives. If we are quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry we will become righteous. More than just telling the world about our faith, let us show it.

FOR DISCUSSIONS:

1. Reflect: Faith in God brings about righteousness. Our belief in God will definitely result in Christlike attitudes that are reflected in our way of life. Unless righteousness is evident in our life, it is impossible to prove that we are really filled with faith.
2. Do you readily accept the wisdom from God’s word? Reflect: “*humbly accept* the word planted in you, which can save you.”
3. Do you intently listen to the Word of God with immediate application?
4. Reflect: ²²⁻²⁴ Don’t fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. **Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don’t act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.**
5. Reflect: Careful tongue shows righteousness
6. Reflect: Religion that is acceptable to God as pure and faultless go beyond words. Righteousness evidenced not by mere talk but by deeds
7. Reflect: Loose tongue reveals worthless religion. Unmanaged tongue is a proof of worthless religion
8. Reflect: A resilient person is able to respond positively even when there are situations that agitate him to anger.
9. Reflect: Ephesians 4:26 “In your anger do not sin”:Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.
10. Reflect: A resilient faith is able to keep calm under pressure. Situations can boil us up but a person who believes in God springs back to see the good that God is accomplishing and looks forward to the righteousness that God is developing in him.