

# JAMES - THE ART OF FAITHFUL LIVING

## WEEK 3: ANGER AND THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE WORD

JASON BRINKER - 9/22/24

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### GROWING TOGETHER *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE ICE-BREAKERS)*

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- If you could instantly learn one new skill, what would it be and why?
- Pick a year during your lifetime that ends with the number 3 (2023, 2013, 2003, etc.) Tell the group what you were doing that year.
- What's one habit you've tried to start (or break) this year? How has that gone?

### GROWING WITH GOD *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE QUESTIONS)*

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**THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA:** Hearing God's Word isn't enough—real transformation comes when we respond with obedience and build our lives on the truth..

Read [James 1:19-25](#), [Ephesians 4:26](#), [Proverbs 18:2](#), [Deuteronomy 6:4-9;12](#), & [Matthew 7:21-27](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

We're challenged to look at how we respond in everyday life. James 1:19 says to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Our human anger doesn't lead to the righteousness God desires. But it's something every one of us needs to work on. Whether it's a heated conversation, a social media post, or a moment of frustration, our reactions say a lot about where our hearts are.

- **When was the last time you had a situation that triggered you?**
- **How did you respond and what do you think would've changed if you had paused to listen more?**

Pastor Jason told us that anger itself isn't the problem—it's how we manage it. The Bible calls us to love God and love people, even when we're frustrated or upset. We can be angry but still act with love, respect, and kindness toward others. Just like a fire, anger can be useful when it's under control, but dangerous when you can't contain it.

- **When you think about being "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger," which one do you personally find most challenging and why?**

James reminds us that it's not enough to simply hear God's Word—we have to let it change us. It's easy to listen to a sermon or read Scripture and then forget it moments later, but we're called to receive, remember, and respond to the Word. Just like looking at yourself in a mirror and then forgetting what you look like doesn't make sense, hearing God's Word without doing what it says doesn't transform us. We're challenged to take the Word seriously—digging deep, reflecting on it, and letting it lead us to real change in our lives.

- **What's one area in your life where you feel God is calling you to obey His Word, but you haven't acted on it yet?**
- **How can your Life Group support you in taking that next step of obedience?**

James and Jesus give us a clear warning—it's not enough to hear God's Word; we must let it change us. Knowing the truth isn't the same as living it. Real transformation comes through obedience. In Matthew 7:21 Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven". Like the wise man who built his house on the rock, we're called to build our lives on Jesus' words, so we can stand strong when storms come. Are we truly allowing God's Word to change us, or are we walking away unchanged?

- **Is there an area of your life where you know God is calling you to take action but you've been hesitant? What would it look like to trust Him and step out in obedience this week?**

## GROWING IN SCRIPTURE AND OBEDIENCE

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Here are a couple of insights Pastor Jason gave us to reflect on.

- What you do with your anger is what matters (Ephesians 4:26)
- Which side of these instructions from James do you normally fall on?

James		The World
↓		↓
Quick to Listen	-----	Quick to Anger
Slow to Speak	-----	Quick to Speak
Slow to Anger	-----	Slow to Listen

James is going to give us three things we need to do. Three ways to respond to God's Word if we are going to be transformed by it. If our lives are going to be changed by it:

1. We must receive The Word (James 1:21)
2. We must remember The Word (James 1:23-24)
3. We must respond and obey The Word (James 1:25)

## GROWING IN OBEDIENCE

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### **Control Anger (James 1:19-20)**

Let's commit to being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Take a moment to think about situations in your life where your reaction has been driven by frustration. How can you approach these moments differently this week?

**Life Group Leader:** Encourage Life Group members to share real-life scenarios where their anger or frustration has been a challenge. Offer space for them to reflect on how they can apply James' teaching to handle these situations better, and provide accountability by checking in on how they're doing with this during the week.

### **Respond to God's Word (James 1:22-25)**

Let's commit to not just being hearers of the Word but doers. Reflect on the areas of your life where you've heard God speaking but haven't yet acted. What step can you take today to obey what He's calling you to do?

**Life Group Leader:** Help your Life Group reflect on what they've been hearing from God. Ask questions that allow them to share where they might be hesitant or stuck. Create an atmosphere where they can talk openly and offer encouragement to take that next step of obedience.

### **Build Your Life on Jesus' Words (Matthew 7:24-27)**

Let's commit to building our lives on Jesus' words. Ask yourself if your life is truly built on a foundation of obedience to Him. Are there areas where you've been relying on something other than His Word to guide you? What can you adjust today?

**Life Group Leader:** Lead the Life Group in discussing what it looks like to have Jesus as the foundation of their lives. Invite them to share where they might be trusting in other things. Encourage them to make practical changes and support each other by sharing what those changes are and how they can be lived out.

## GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

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This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group

[Good Grace](#)

[Living Hope](#)

[I've Witnessed It](#)

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