



## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts, asking You to transform us. Stir within us a holy discontent for the brokenness around us. Give us eyes to see the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed the way You see them. Let our faith be more than words—let it be action. Help us not to be consumed by anger, but to be moved by Your righteousness, stepping forward with love and justice. May we walk in true religion, caring for those in need and living out Your kingdom in our communities. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What is the funniest or most unexpected situation that ever made you spring into action? (Maybe it was a spill at a party, a last-minute deadline, or a pet or child causing chaos!)

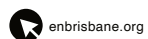


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## WORD

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing... Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well.

- James 1:19-2:8

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time when you acted impulsively out of anger? How did it turn out? How does James 1:19-20 challenge you?
2. Why do you think James emphasises \*doing\* and not just \*hearing\* God's word? What are some practical ways we can live this out?
3. Who are the "orphans and widows" in our community today (the marginalised and broken)? How can we as a life group take action to care for them?
4. Have you ever experienced or witnessed favouritism in a church setting? How does showing partiality contradict the Gospel?

## REFLECTION

James reminds us that true religion is not just about what we believe but how we live. Being a socially responsible church means embodying God's heart for justice and mercy in our everyday lives.

First, James calls us to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (1:19-21). We live in an age of outrage, where it is easy to react with frustration to injustice. But James warns us that human anger does not lead to God's righteousness. Instead of letting unrighteous anger consume us, we should allow holy discontent to move us toward meaningful action for God's causes in our communities.

Second, James challenges us to be doers of the word, not merely hearers (1:22-25, 27). Faith is not passive—it calls for action. It is not enough to attend church or agree with Scripture in theory; we must embody Christ's love through our actions. James points to caring for orphans and widows as an example of living faith. Today, this extends to anyone in need—the homeless, the forgotten, the marginalised. True worship is not just in song but in service.

Finally, James warns against showing partiality (2:1-8). The world values people based on wealth, status, or appearance, but God does not. Jesus welcomed the outcast and dined with sinners. As recipients of His grace, we are called to do the same. A socially responsible church does not favour the privileged but lifts up those whom society overlooks.

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, You are the ultimate example of love and justice. You did not turn away from the poor, the broken, or the marginalised, and You do not turn away from us. Today, we surrender our lives to You, not just in word but in action. Help us to worship You by living out true religion—caring for those in need, acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with You. Holy Spirit, empower us to be bold in faith and compassionate in action. Open doors for us to make a real impact in our families, workplaces, and communities. Use us, Lord, to bring Your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.