

*Series: Just Do It; Sermon: **Putting It into Practice**
delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on September 6, 2020*

Bible text explored: James 1:19–27

¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For 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. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But 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.

²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion 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. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What are some situations when it's easy to speak and get angry and hard to listen?
2. What are some of the negative effects of anger? (v. 20)
3. What are some areas where it's hard to put away sinful actions or attitudes? (v. 21)
4. What's the connection between repentance and hearing God's Word? (v. 21)
5. What lies would your flesh tell you to try to deceive you into thinking you were a growing Christian without actually being a doer of the Word? (vv. 22-24)
6. What's the end result if you do persevere in looking at and doing God's Word? What do you think that would look like in your life? (v. 25)
7. What are some signs that a person's religion isn't real? What are some signs that it is? (vv. 26-27)
8. Are there sins of the tongue that are particularly hard to fight in our context?
9. How can someone individually keep themselves pure and help orphans and widows in Wheaton in 2020? How can we go this as a group? (vv. 26-28)
10. Overall, what does this passage teach us about who God is? What is He like and what does He love?