

**Faith That Works**  
**Is Rooted in Applying the Word**  
9/16/07



**Text: James 1:19-27**

**It means...**

**1. A THE WORD – v.19-21**

Cross reference(s): John 14:21-24

- *let every person be **QUICK TO HEAR** (quick to listen, swift to hear), **SLOW TO SPEAK, slow to anger...***

Cross reference(s): Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 17:5

- *“...let every person be quick to hear (quick to listen, swift to hear), slow to speak, **SLOW TO ANGER...**”*

Cross reference: Ecclesiastes 7:9; Psalms 19:7-8

**2. D THE WORD – v.22-25**

Cross reference(s): Joshua 1:8 echoes this: *“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful”* (NIV); 1 John 2:3-6, 3:10

**3. “SO WHAT?” TIME (or better yet, “So HOW?” time) –**

**v.26-27** *“<sup>26</sup>If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.*

*<sup>27</sup>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.”*

Ask yourself, ‘Is my faith *working*?’ It is if....

- I’M M\_\_\_\_\_ MY WORDS – v.26

- I’M C\_\_\_\_\_ FOR THOSE IN NEED – v.27

Cross reference(s): 1 John 3:17-18; Isaiah 1:11-17

- I’M WALKING AWAY FROM CRUD THAT WILL BRING ME DOWN – v.27B

*“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness...”* (Isaiah 5:20).

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS**

***Be quick to hear...***

The devotional prayer of the modern man is, ‘Lord, speak to me! You have sixty seconds!’ What might be factors in our world that ‘dumb down’ or shorten our attention spans? And...What can you do to counter this affect? SEE Psalms 46:10...

***Slow to anger...***

Where does anger easily find an outlet in your life? How is it manifested? Pray about that area(s) as a small group. Look ahead to James 4:1-2 for more counsel on anger. Proverbs 17:27 – *“Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.”* SEE also 2 Kings 5:11; Proverbs 10:19, 13:3, 17:28, 29:20...

***Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls...***

How do we know whether the Word has properly been *implanted*? What do you need to do to prepare the ‘soil’ for planting? SEE Matthew 13...

“Unless the Word has made a change in our lives, it has not really entered our lives.”

Agree/Disagree? Why?

What can you (be it on your own or as a small group) DO to apply the Word and affirm having a “faith that works?” Brainstorm... dream...

Identify the balance present in the words found in John 13:17 as you close.

Pray for one another as you *“...stir up one another to love and good works,<sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”* (Hebrews 10:24-25a).