

## Discuss

**Authenticity is highly valued in today’s world. And authenticity is what James is trying to drive home too, particularly regarding spirituality. James gives us a test to help us gauge our spiritual authenticity:**

*“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.” ([James 1:19-20](#))*

- Are you quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry?
- How important is authenticity to you?
- Are there other marks of authenticity that you look for in someone?

**Spiritually, the outer world flows from the inner world so if there’s a breakdown with our outer world issues, it’s a sign something isn’t being addressed on the inside. That’s why James gave us outer world issues for a spiritual authenticity test. James gives us a twofold cure for being more authentic, beginning with getting rid of the filth in our lives.**

*“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent...” ([James 1:21a](#))*

- What are you allowing to come into your inner world?
- Is there anything polluting your inner world morally that you need to get rid of?

**In addition to getting rid of the filth in our lives, James then tells us to fill ourselves with Scripture. We must humbly accept it by doing what it says about how we should live.**

*“...and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” ([James 1:21b](#))*

*“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror, and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” ([James 1:22-24](#))*

- How do you approach the Bible?
- Are there parts of the Bible that you overlook or don’t agree with? Why?
- Is there anything you’ve read that you know you need to humbly accept?

## Next Steps

**Christianity isn't about religion, but about our inner world being transformed by the living God and from that, making a difference in the lives of others. When you get your inner world appropriately cared for, you will increasingly have the heart of God toward others. And that will be a life that is truly blessed by God. Do one thing today that would be a step toward becoming more spiritually authentic; get rid of any filth and seek out how God wants you to live through His Word.**

*“But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does.” ([James 1:25](#))*

*“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. 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.” ([James 1:26-27](#))*

**July 21:** [Online Book Club: Improve Your Serve](#)

**July 21:** [TeamLife \(Online\)](#)

**July 24:** [Second Harvest Food Bank Serve Day](#)

**July 25:** [Starting Line](#)

**Daily:** [Training Camp](#)

## Continued Reading

Read [James 1:19-27](#); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#).

## Prayer

God, thank you for the challenges you give us to be more and more authentic with who we are and how we live. Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry. Help us to take an interest in other people and have a heart for meeting people at their greatest need. Amen.