

**James:  
Guide to Practical Spirituality  
Part 2  
Quit Kidding Yourself**

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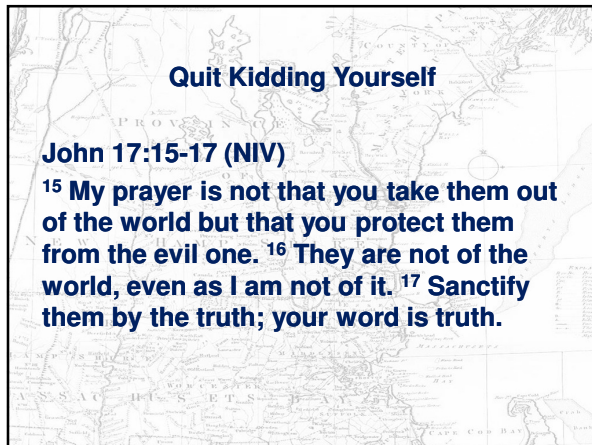
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**Quit Kidding Yourself**

**John 17:15-17 (NIV)**  
<sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

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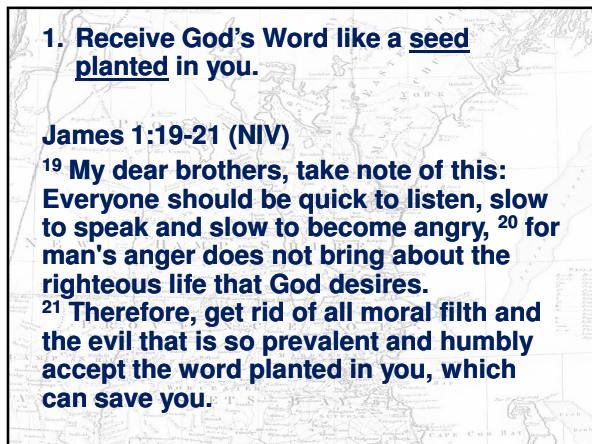
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**1. Receive God's Word like a seed planted in you.**

**James 1:19-21 (NIV)**  
<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.  
<sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

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**1. Receive God's Word like a seed planted in you.**

- **Swift to listen**
- **Slow to speak**
- **Slow to anger**

**"Temper is such a valuable thing, it is a shame to lose it."**

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**1. Receive God's Word like a seed planted in you.**

- **Prepare your heart and mind for God's word.**

**James 1:21 (NIV)**  
<sup>21</sup> **Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.**

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**1. Receive God's Word like a seed planted in you.**

- **Prepare your heart and mind for God's word.**

**Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)**  
**But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.**

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**2. Use God's word like a mirror to reveal and water to cleanse.**

**James 1:22-24 (NIV)**  
<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.  
<sup>23</sup> 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 <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

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**2. Use God's word like a mirror to reveal and water to cleanse.**

- Use God's Word to examine yourself.
- Use God's Word to be cleansed.

**Ephesians 5:25b-26 (NIV)**  
 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

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**2. Use God's word like a mirror to reveal and water to cleanse.**

- Use God's Word to experience transformation.

**James 1:25 (NIV)**  
<sup>25</sup> 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.

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**2. Use God's word like a mirror to reveal and water to cleanse.**

- Use God's Word to experience transformation.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)**  
<sup>18</sup> And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

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**3. Let God's Word and Spirit empower you to serve.**

**James 1:26-27 (NIV)**  
<sup>26</sup> If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> 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.

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**3. Let God's Word and Spirit empower you to serve.**

- **Serve with our tongue.**
- **Serve with our actions.**

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**4. Let God's Word convict you of favoritism and discrimination.**

**James 2:1- 2 (NIV)**  
**<sup>1</sup> My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.**

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**4. Let God's Word convict you of favoritism and discrimination.**

**<sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?**

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**4. Let God's Word convict you of favoritism and discrimination.**

**Romans 2:11 (NIV)**  
**<sup>11</sup> For God does not show favoritism.**

- **What does discrimination reveal about our maturity.**
- **What is the "Royal law of scripture?"**

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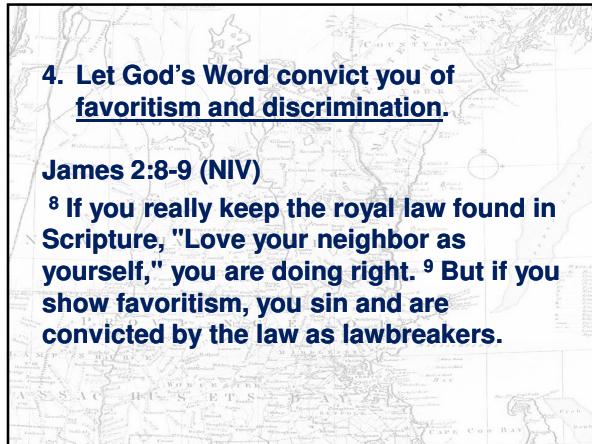
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**4. Let God's Word convict you of favoritism and discrimination.**

**James 2:8-9 (NIV)**  
**<sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.**

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