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Hear and Do the Word

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **February 2, 2014**

James 1:19-27

Introduction: James the **brother** of **Jesus** apparently did not believe in Him before the resurrection (John 7:5). Yet we know that Jesus appeared to His brother following the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:7). From the few things we read about James in Acts 12 and 15, as well as in Galatians 1 and 2, we can see that he was quite important in the early Jesus movement. Yet it is in the letter of James that we see something else about him. He came to be a student of his brother's teachings.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7, For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was SEEN of **James**; then of all the apostles.

The letter of James shows a few marks of being addressed to specific groups of **believing Jews** outside the land of Israel. James applied the wisdom of Jesus, Proverbs, and the Law of Moses to these problems. It seems there were problems with **angry conversation** and lack of clarity about the right way of life of a disciple of Jesus. James called for HUMBLE acceptance of the way of Jesus and taught the reward of **pure religion**.

(Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series)

James 1:16-20, Do not **ERR**, my beloved brethren. Every **good gift** and every **perfect gift** is from above, and cometh down from the **Father of lights**, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to **hear** **(understand)**, slow to **speak**, slow to WRATH: For the WRATH of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Wrath defined 3709, violent passion (ire, or (justifiable) abhorrence [extreme hatred, detestation]); **by implication punishment: --ANGER, indignation.**

ANGER, 1. A violent passion of the mind excited by a real or supposed **INJURY** (any wrong or damage done to a man's person, rights, reputation or goods); usually accompanied with a propensity to take VENGEANCE, or to obtain satisfaction from the offending party.

VENGEANCE, the infliction of pain on another, in return for an injury or offense.

Such infliction, when it proceeds from malice or more resentment, and is **NOT** necessary for the purposes of justice, is REVENGE, and a most heinous crime.

When such infliction proceeds from a mere **LOVE** of **JUSTICE**, and the necessity of

punishing offenders for the support of the laws, it is vengeance, and is warrantable (authorized by commission, precept or right) and just. In this case, vengeance is a just retribution, recompense or punishment. In this latter sense the word is used in Scripture, and frequently applied to the punishments inflicted by God on sinners.

This passion (anger) however varies in degrees of violence, and in ingenuous (**NOBLE**; generous) **minds**, may be attended only with a desire to reprove (convince of a fault, censure) OR chide (rebuke, scold at) the offender.

Mark 3:4-5, And he (Jesus) saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with **ANGER**, being **grieved** for the **hardness** of their **hearts (MIND)**, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was **restored** whole as the other.

Anger is also excited by an injury offered to a relation, friend or party to which one is attached; and some degrees of it may be excited by cruelty, injustice or oppression offered to those with whom one has no immediate connection, or even to the community of which one is a member. Nor is it unusual to see something of this passion roused by gross absurdities in others, especially in controversy or discussion.

Anger may be inflamed till it rises to RAGE and a temporary **DELIRIUM**.

Delirium, a state in which the ideas of a person are WILD, irregular and unconnected, or do not correspond with the truth or with external objects; a roving or wandering of the MIND; disorder of the INTELLECT (faculty of thinking; otherwise called the understanding. A CLEAR intellect receives and entertains the same ideas which another communicates with perspicuity [clearness].). Fevers often produce delirium.

Proverbs 15:18, A **wrathful (furious)** man stirreth up **strife (discord** [hate, hostility; unfriendliness, DISUNION,]): but he that is **SLOW** to **anger** appeaseth (calm) **strife**.

Proverbs 19:11, The **discretion (understanding)** of a man deferreth (delay) his **anger**; and it is **his GLORY** to pass over a transgression.

Thought 1. Just one of many verses of scripture that prove that God did NOT say that "all GLORY" is to go to him alone. If we glorify him, he'll glorify us.

1 Samuel 2:30, Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for **THEM** that **honour (GLORIFY) me** I will **honour (GLORIFY)**, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Ecclesiastes 7:9, Be not hasty in thy spirit to be **angry**: for **anger** resteth (LIVE) in the bosom of FOOLS.

Ephesians 4:26-27, Be ye **ANGRY**, and **sin not**: let not the **sun go down** upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

NOTE: Let not the sun go down upon your wrath... If it burn into wrath and bitterness of spirit, O see to it that you suppress it speedily." Observe, Though **anger** in itself is not sinful, yet there is the upmost **danger** of its becoming so if it be not carefully watched and speedily **suppressed**. And therefore, though anger may come into the bosom of a **wise** man, *it rests* only in the bosom of **fools**.
Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible

Ephesians 4:31-32, Let all bitterness, and **wrath (passion (as if breathing hard), fierceness)**, and **anger**, and clamor, and evil peaking, be put away from you,

with all malice: and be ye KIND one to another, tender-hearted, **forgiving** one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

James 1:21, Wherefore **lay apart** ALL filthiness and **superfluity (abundance)** of **NAUGHTINESS**, and receive with **meekness (humility)** the **engrafted (implanted)** word, which is able to **save (deliver or protect (literally or fig.):--HEAL)** your souls **(MIND)**.

Naughtiness defined 2549, badness i.e. (subjectively) depravity (corruption; as the depravity of manners and morals), **or (actively) malignity** (evil dispositions of heart towards another; malice without provocation, or malevolence with baseness of heart; deep rooted spite.), **or (passively) trouble: -- evil, maliciousness, wickedness.**

Thought 1. As led by the Holy Spirit, James speaks a truth that every Christian should read and UNDERSTAND. In this age where some people, even Christians believe that "medications" can heal the "MIND", this verse boldly declares that the only thing that can truly deliver, protect, and heal a mind is God's word.

James 1:22-24, But be ye **DOERS** of the word, and not **hearers (listen)** only, **DECEIVING** your own selves. For if any be a **hearer (listen)** of the word, and not a **DOER**, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a GLASS: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway **forgetteth** what manner of man he was.

Deceiving defined 3884, delude (lead from truth or into error; to mislead the MIND or judgment; frustrate or disappoint. [1913, Webs.]):--**beguile, deceive.**

NOTE: *Deceiving your own selves.* It is implied here, that by merely *hearing* the word but not *doing* it, they would **deceive** their own **souls**. The **nature** of this deception was this, that they would imagine that that was all which was required, whereas the main thing was that they should be **obedient**. If a man supposes that by a mere punctual attendance on preaching, or a respectful attention to it, he has done all that is required of him, he is labouring under a most gross self-deception. And yet there are multitudes who seem to imagine that they have done all that is demanded of them when they have heard attentively the word preached. Of its influence on their lives, and its claims to obedience, they are utterly regardless. {a} "doers of the word" ; Matthew 7:21

For if any be, etc. The ground of the comparison in these verses is obvious. The apostle refers to what all persons experience, the fact that we do not **retain** a distinct impression of ourselves after we have looked in a mirror. While actually looking in the mirror, we see all our features, and can trace them distinctly; when **we turn away**, the **image** and the **impression** both vanish. When **looking** in the mirror, we can see all the defects and blemishes of our person; if there is a scar, a deformity, a feature of ugliness, it is distinctly before the **MIND**; but when we turn away, that is "out of sight, and out of mind." When unseen it gives no uneasiness, and, even if capable of correction, we take no pains to remove it. So when we hear the word of God. It is like a mirror held up before us. In the perfect precepts of the law, and the perfect requirements of the gospel, we see our own short-comings and defects, and perhaps think that we will correct them. But we turn away immediately, and forget it all. If, however, we were "*doers of the word*," we should endeavour to remove all those defects and **blemishes** in our **MORAL character**, and to bring our whole souls into conformity with what the law and the gospel require. The phrase "natural face," (Gr., face of birth,) means, the face or appearance which we have in virtue of our natural birth. The word **glass** here means **mirror**. Glass was not commonly used for mirrors among the ancients, but they were made of **polished plates of metal**.

(Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/)

James 1:25, But whoso looketh into the perfect **law of liberty**, and **continueth** therein, he being not a forgetful **hearer**, but a **doer** of the work, this man shall be **BLESSED** in his **DEED**.

NOTE: Contrasted with the man who merely "**glances**" in a mirror the person looking into the perfect law of liberty is represented as "continuing to do so," a mere glance being insufficient. Gibson said that "The conception of the gospel as a law is characteristic of James"; but that conception was also that of the apostle Paul who wrote, "Do we then make law of none effect through **faith**? God forbid: nay, we establish law" (Romans 3:31), also, "And so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

...Regarding the **perfect law** of liberty presented in this remarkable passage, it should ever be remembered that this is the same as the law established by faith (Romans 3:31), the same as the "law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2), and the same as "**the law** of the **Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:2). And what is this wonderful law? "I have no hesitation in answering: it is the gospel ... the gospel is a law; let none be alarmed."

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Thought 1. This verse reveals, and shows, it's error to believe: "When praises go up, blessings come down." Actually, God doesn't care to even hear us praise him IF we are not being obedient to him. It's worthless!

I was just reminded of a time, about 40 years ago, when I wasn't obeying ALL that I KNEW to do, and was singing in the choir. One Sunday while I was just singing with all my heart, I heard this voice say, "Quit praising me and OBEY me." I knew exactly to what he was referring! So, I repented and did what I had not been doing before he spoke up.

Psalms 29:2, Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of **holiness**.

Amos 5:21-24, I **HATE**, I **despise** your **feast** days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, **I will not accept** them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the **noise** of thy **songs**; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. But let **judgment** run down as waters, and **righteousness** as a mighty stream.

1 John 3:23, And this is his commandment, That we should BELIEVE ...on the name of his Son Jesus Christ AND **LOVE** one another, ...AS... he gave us **commandment**.

James 1:26, If any man among you seem to be **religious (PIOUS)**, and bridleth not his **tongue**, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Pious, godly; reverencing and honoring the Supreme Being in heart and in the practice of the duties he has enjoined (commanded).

NOTE: and **bridleth not his tongue**; but boasts of his works, and speaks ill of his brethren; backbites them, and hurts their names and characters, by private insinuations, and public charges without any foundation; who takes no care of what he says, but gives his tongue a liberty of speaking anything, to the **injury** of others, and the **dishonour** of God, and his ways: there seems to be an allusion to (Psalms 39:1) .

(Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)

James 1:27, Pure **religion** (system of faith and worship) and **undefiled** before God and the Father **IS THIS**, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself **unspotted** from the world.

NOTE: ...before God and the Father; or in the sight of God the Father of Christ, and all his people; that which is approved of by him, who is the searcher of hearts, and the trier of the reins of men, "is this": not that the apostle is giving a full definition of true religion; only he mentions some of the effects of it, by which it is known, and without which it cannot be TRUE and GENUINE...

(Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)