

**Ambassadors Sunday School Class**  
**James 1:19-25**

**FAITH TESTED BY ITS RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**A. THE REACTIONS TO THE WORD (vv. 19–20)**

Since God used the Word to make us the first fruits of His creatures (v. 18), it must be accorded the proper attention and response. James begins with a recognition of the readers' knowledge concerning the Word (v. 19*a*), calls for appropriate reactions to the Word (v. 19*b*), and advances a reason for the demanded purpose (v. 20).

1. The Knowledge Possessed (v. 19*a*)

2. The Reactions Demanded (v. 19*b*)

3. The Reason Stated (v. 20)

**B. THE RECEPTION OF THE WORD (v. 21)**

“Therefore” (*dio*), an inferential conjunction meaning “for this reason,” looks back to verse 20 and indicates that a different response is needed. The suggestion is that wrath has operated in their relations because they have not effectively dealt with the evils in their own hearts. A double activity on their part is required. Negatively, they must remove the hindering sins; positively, they must welcome the Word and permit it to carry out its saving work in their lives.

1. The Stripping Off of Sins (v. 21*a*)

2. The Appropriation of the Word (v. 21*b*)

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**C. THE OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD (vv. 22–27)**

Wholehearted acceptance of the Word must result in active obedience to the Word. Such obeying of the Word constitutes the essence of a living faith. These verses express James's central concern. Verses 22–25 state and illustrate the need for active obedience to the Word, and verses 26–27 portray the true nature of religious obedience.

1. The Demand for Active Obedience (vv. 22–25)

a. *The statement of the requirement (v. 22)*

b. *The illustrations of the requirement (vv. 23–25)*

(1) *The negative portrayal (vv. 23–24)*

(2) *The positive portrayal (v. 25)*

2. The Nature of Acceptable Obedience (vv. 26–27)