

# ***GROWTH GUIDE***

## **READ & REVIEW**

Today's focus is going to be on looking at the biblical text and understanding what the writer was communicating to his original audience.

Begin by reading James 1:19-27 in its entirety.

### **Read James 1:19-20**

*Notice the connection James makes between hearing, speaking, and anger. He seems to be drawing on the wisdom of the Proverbs. Look up Proverbs 17:7 for an example. Also note that James says that human anger does not accomplish the righteousness of God.*

Based on this passage how do you think James would say someone could identify human anger?

### **Read James 1:21**

*Notice the words "ridding yourselves". This is a phrase that means to "take off" and is using an image of stripping away the old self that is developed by many other New Testament writers (cf. Rom. 13:12; Eph. 4:22, 25; Col. 3:8; Heb. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:1). The word "filth" builds on this and adds to the idea of soiled garments.*

How does this image help the believer understand what is involved in growing up in Christ or becoming spiritually mature or whole?

## Read James 1:22-24

*Notice James says to be doers of the word and not just hearers. To accept the word (v. 21) is to do the word. Notice also that James continues to develop this image. This time the person in soiled garments is staring into a mirror and changing nothing.*

How is this image helpful to the believer in identifying and dealing with self-deception?

## Read James 1:25

*Notice that James says that "looking intently" and "persevering" in the law/word of God and then being a doer that works will be blessed.*

How does looking intently at the word (v. 25) differ from looking in the mirror at one's face (v. 23)? How does the word of God help us become doers?

## Read James 1:26-27

*Notice the words "useless", "pure", and "undefiled". These are all Old Testament terms that connect back to true and false worship and idolatry in Israel.*

How do these connections and images help highlight the seriousness of hasty speech and the neglect of the vulnerable?