



## **JAMES: Walk the Talk**

Pastor Derek Sanford

October 16, 2016

### **Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. As you think about this week's sermon, what one thing do you particularly remember?
2. Read **James 1:19-27** together and then discuss Pastor Derek's question:  
"Are you walking the talk when it comes to your faith in Jesus Christ?"
3. In what ways do the pressures and struggles of this world sometimes weaken our commitment to Christ?
4. Pastor Derek reminded us that God intends that our activity come out of our identity as God's dearly loved children. In other words, when we do what God tells us to do, we're not working *for* God's love, we're working *from* God's love. Why is this distinction important?
5. Pastor Derek referred to an Old Testament passage (**Zechariah 3:1-5**) in addressing the issue of how we are supposed to get through life unstained. Like Joshua the high priest in Zechariah's vision, as sinners we are burdened by condemnation and accusation from Satan – we are "clothed with filthy garments." How then can God look at us and see us dressed in fine clothes, garments as clean and white as snow?
6. The passage in **James 1** gives us five general guidelines for how to be doers -- not just hearers, of God's word:
  - a. Be civil in our conversations (verses 19-20). Pastor Derek mentioned three types of people who need to pay particular attention to God's instruction to be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." In what situations do you find yourself being a bad listener or a windbag or a person with a short fuse?
  - b. Clean up the filth (verse 21). The "filth" might be an unwholesome relationship, bad entertainment choices, crude language or swearing, gossip, or many kinds of bad habits. Where do you need to start cleaning up?
  - c. Submit to God's word (verse 21). What does God's promise in **Ezekiel 36:25-27** mean to believers in Jesus Christ ("And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you")?
  - d. Act on what we know (verses 22-25). How does James use looking in a mirror to illustrate our relationship to God's word?
  - e. Pursue simple acts of dignity (verses 26-27).
    - (1) Dignify someone with our words (speak kindly, encourage, compliment)
    - (2) Dignify someone through our service (respond to the needs of others)
    - (3) Dignify a situation with our holy living (intentionally seek purity)

**Application:** Put the word of God into action this week.

**Verse to Remember:** *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* **James 1:22**