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## #4 “A Doer Who Acts”

*James 1:19-27*

MIKE ARMSTRONG | MARCH 30, 2014

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THE  
**NO-NONSENSE  
GUIDE**  
TO AN  
**EXTRAORDINARY  
CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
- THE BOOK OF  
JAMES

### Warming Up

1. This has nothing to do with the point of the message, but since Pastor Mike mentioned his favourite toy as a kid, what was yours? Have a little fun with this one. ☺

### Digging In

*Putting my faith into action means . . .*

2. . . . *I've got a good handle on my behaviour (1:19-21a)*
  - What does it mean to be “quick to hear”? And “slow to speak”? How are these two behaviours often interrelated?
  - What type of anger is James talking about here? Why does he say that it “does not produce the righteousness of God”? Check out a few other texts on anger for further insight: Proverbs 16:32; 19:11; Ecclesiastes 7:9; Ephesians 4:26, 31.
  - Unpack the phrase “filthiness and rampant wickedness.” What are these words referring to? Why is it so critical to “put away all” of it?
  - Pastor Mike said, “True godly behaviour on the outside is always a product of what God has done and continues to do on the inside.” Discuss the implications.
  - What does it mean to have a good handle on your behaviour? What are some of the ways Mike suggested to break out of a slump?
3. . . . *and actually live out the truth of God's Word (1:21b-25)*
  - What does it look like to “receive with meekness” God's Word? What is the idea behind the word “implanted”? How does Scripture—when it truly becomes an inseparable part of us—“save [our] souls”?
  - In what ways does hearing God's Word but not doing anything with it cause us to be “deceived”? In your opinion, how big of a problem is this really?
  - Why does James label Scripture “the perfect law” and “the law of liberty”? What do these descriptions convey about God's Word?
  - What steps could you take to better apply God's Word to your life? How could asking this question help: “Is my brain smarter or has my heart changed?”
4. . . . *so that my service and holiness are pleasing to him (1:26-27)*
  - We often assert, “Christianity isn't a religion; it's a relationship.” Yet James uses the words “religion” and “religious.” What gives?
  - How would you differentiate between a so-called legalistic religion and “pure and undefiled” religion? What part do motives play in this?
  - What are the contemporary applications of “visit[ing] orphans and widows in their affliction”? How are you doing with this?

### Breaking Out

5. Are you merely a “hearer” of the Word or are you also a “doer”? How can you help your fellow small group members live out the truth more enthusiastically?



**HARVEST**  
BIBLE CHAPEL