

(in)FORMATION

GAINING INFORMATION FROM JAMES, SO WE CAN BE IN FORMATION LIKE JESUS.



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
August 30, 2026

MORE THAN A MIRROR
Pastor Dave Larson | Turlock
Pastor Brian Benton | Patterson

1. Cultivate a _____ life.

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. James 1:19 (NLT)

Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back. Proverbs 29:11 (NLT)

2. Let God's Word take _____ in me.

So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. James 1:21 (NLT)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

3. Move past _____ to _____.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. James 1:22-25 (NLT)

If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:26-27 (NLT)

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MORE THAN A MIRROR
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1. Cultivate a LISTENING life.

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. James 1:19 (NLT)

Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back. Proverbs 29:11 (NLT)

2. Let God's Word take ROOT in me.

So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. James 1:21 (NLT)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

3. Move past AGREEMENT to ACTION.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. James 1:22-25 (NLT)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

Tell about a time you had something on your shirt, or something embarrassing going on that nobody told you about... until it was too late. How'd you find out?

ENGAGE

What impacted you the most personally from the message?

GROW

1. James says to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to get angry” (v.19). Which one of those three is hardest for you, and why do you think that is?
2. Think about the courtroom judge picture, someone who takes everything in before ruling. Where in your life could you use a little more “judge energy” and a little less “reload and fire back” energy?
3. James connects listening with anger, saying human anger doesn't produce the righteousness God wants. Does that surprise you? Why do you think our culture treats being quick and sharp-tongued like a strength instead of a warning sign?
4. Jesus' parable of the soils says the seed was always the same — the difference was the soil. What tends to choke out God's Word in your life: the hard path (distraction), the rocky ground (no roots), or the thorns (worry and busyness)?
5. Jesus said the wise builder and the foolish builder both heard the same words. The difference was who “built” something with them. Where have you noticed that gap in your own life between hearing truth and actually building on it?

LEAD (YOURSELF):

This week, the challenge is to slow down, pick a verse or two, and let it sit and marinate. Try writing it down, put it somewhere you'll see it, pray over it daily. What's one verse you could plant this week, and where will you put it so you actually see it?