

Faith Takes Grit: The Qualities Needed to Survive Life's Trials.

James 1:19-27

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To survive the trials of life you must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. – v. 19

1. What masks do you wear? Why do you wear a mask? Does your mask change with the company you keep? Have you really ever taken them off? What's stopping you from taking them off?
2. What is the wisdom expressed in this verse? Look up Proverbs 10:19, 10:32, and 15:31-32. Think of somebody that you know who you consider to be "wise". What are some characteristics of them?

Be slow to anger – remain fixed on what God says, not what others say. = vv. 20-21

3. What does anger produce? What does that look like in your personal life?
4. Verse 21 has a strong command. What is that command? Why is this command so important?

Be slow to speak – preserve by continually applying God's word. – vv. 22-25

5. What does being a "doer of the word" prove about us? (Acts 26:20 speaks to this)
6. James refers to "the word" two times in these verses. What does he mean by that? How do you react to that "word" in your life, and ultimately, what do you/should you do with it?

Be quick to hear – have humility to listen first, and avoid hypocrisy always. – v. 26

7. Are you a hippopotamus? (Little ears and a LARGE mouth.) Ask somebody who knows you well. Do you use your mouth first or your ears?
8. If we can't control our tongue, who are we fooling? How does that lack of control lead to being a hypocrite?

Maintain holiness by putting your faith into action. – v. 27

9. "See a need. Meet a need." How are you living that out at home? At work? At church? To the individual "flying a sign" on the street corner? Are you quick to complain about (see) a need and slow to meet it? What is 1 need, this week, that you can meet?
10. What is the religion that God accepts? How well do you live that out?

This week:

- Pray that God will reveal any anger issues in your life. Share those with somebody who can pray with you and hold you accountable.
- On a scale of 1-10 ask your spouse how well you are at serving him/her. How well do you serve around the house? Others in your life? Needs at church? Where and how are you serving?

Next week: James 2:1-13

