

# DEVOTIONAL HEART HEALTHY

Aversion: Gospel Inoculation // January 23, 2022

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

**Discussion Starter:** What do you think it means to be a doer and not just a hearer of God's Word?

**Key Text:** "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing...<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment." (James 1:19-25; 2:8-13)

An inoculation introduces microorganisms of a disease into a person's body for the purpose of producing antibodies to provide immunity against that disease. Spiritually speaking, it is possible for a person to have just enough of religion injected into his heart that he builds up an aversion to the Gospel itself. He has enough religion to make him spiritually sick but not enough of the true Gospel to make him spiritually well!

In the Book of James, one of the most practical books on Christian living in the entire Bible, we learn several characteristics of a true Christian—not just a person who has been vaccinated with religion, but a person who is fully committed to Jesus Christ and has a Bible-based view of life.

## 1. We have a Bible-based view of anger. (1:19-20)

James informs us that the "anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (v.20). This is referring to anger that comes about because of personal injury and sets us against our fellow Christians. This kind of temper tantrum is a detriment to the ongoing of God's kingdom because it short circuits the loving, accepting, redeeming kind of love God wants people to experience. Simply put, uncontrolled anger will destroy our hearts and defuse our spiritual power. God's true goodness is never achieved through a person's uncontrolled temper.

**Discuss:** In James 1:20, we find a 3-step solution to anger. What are those three steps, and which do you find the most difficult to put into practice? Why is it difficult?

## 2. We have a Bible-based view of God's Word. (1:21-25)

James gives us a negative command to “*put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness*” (2:21a)—that is, remove evil thoughts, actions, and attitudes like you’d take off a dirty shirt or coat. Then James gives us a positive command to “*receive with meekness the implanted word*” (2:21b)—that is, allow the seeds of Scripture to be planted and nourished in our hearts so it can produce abundant fruit in our lives. This way, we will be doers of God’s Word, and not hearers only (2:22). When we hear but do not act on what we hear, we deceive ourselves into thinking we are right with God. God wants our theology to translate into biography!

**Discuss:** How does James use a mirror as an analogy for the Bible in James 2:23-25?

## 3. We have a Bible-based view of others. (2:8-9)

We are to follow Jesus’ example in how we treat others. One thing Jesus’ enemies could not accuse Him of was partiality. They had to admit, “*You do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances*” (Matthew 22:16). We are also to follow Jesus’ exhortation in how we treat others. Jesus said, “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another*” (John 13:34). We are to treat people with dignity, respect, and courtesy and accept every individual as an individual of worth to God.

**Discuss:** What do these verses say about prejudice: Leviticus 19:15; Acts 10:34; Galatians 3:24?

## 4. We have a Bible-based view of ourselves. (2:10-11)

In 3:10-11, James is warning us against self-centeredness in which we put ourselves in the center of the world and judge everything from that perspective. James is also warning us against self-satisfaction that forgets we do not have to break all the laws to become a lawbreaker—a single offense puts us in that category!

**Discuss:** How would you advise a new Christian to avoid self-centeredness and self-satisfaction?

## 5. We have a Bible-based view of God. (2:12-13)

James reminds us in 3:12-13 that both mercy and judgment are part of God’s nature. God is a righteous God who judges the sins of mankind. God is also a God of mercy who has mercy on those who turn to Him.

**Discuss:** How would you explain to an open-minded non-Christian the connection between God’s judgment and God’s mercy?

### For Further Study:

“What Does the Bible Say about Prejudice?” article at [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

“Aren’t You Looking in the Mirror?” article at [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)