

James 1:21-22 (NLT)

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. [22] But don't just listen to God's **WORD**. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:25 (NLT)

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 1:26-27 (NLT)

If you claim to be religious but don't **CONTROL** your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

[27] 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.

**Is our “RELIGION”
WORTHLESS?**

James 1:26-27

→ There are roughly **4,200**
RELIGIONS in the world.

The word **Religion** may be used interchangeably with **Faith** or **Belief System**, but **Religion** **DIFFERS** from private **BELIEF** in that it has a **PUBLIC** aspect.

James 1:25 (ESV)

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.

RELIGION has to be more than
an **External RITUAL** or **PRACTICE**;
it must come from an **Inner Spiritual**
REALITY of a **CHANGED** heart.

→ The **WAY** we **TALK** and **WHAT**
we talk **ABOUT** -
shows the **REALITY** of our **FAITH**

James 1:26 (NLT)

If you claim to be **religious** but **don't**
CONTROL your **TONGUE**, you are fooling
yourself, and your **religion is worthless**

→ If our **WORDS** are not Controlled by God - it shows that our **HEART** is **NOT** either. MacArthur

Luke 6:45 (NIV)

The **good** man brings **good things** out of the **good stored up in his heart**, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the **OVERFLOW** of his heart his **MOUTH SPEAKS**.

It is a **Vital** inner **Faith** that is **seen in**
everyday life - it is **conduct**
consistent with FAITH. LABC

PURE RELIGION... HNTC

- is to **WORSHIP** God openly genuinely
- is **COMMITTED** to Pursuing a closer **WALK** with God
- shows **SELF-CONTROL** by **Guarding** what we **SAY**
- shows **SELF-SACRIFICE** by **Investing Time** and **Money** to care for others
- shows **SELF-DENIAL** by Turning **AWAY** from sin

→ We should **IMPACT** the world -
NOT **ADAPT** our **Faith and Values**
so that we **FIT INTO** it

1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

Dear friends, I urge you, as **ALIENS** and
STRANGERS in the world, to **abstain from**
sinful desires, which **WAR** against your soul

1 Peter 2:15-16 (HCS)

For **it is God's WILL** that you silence
the ignorance of foolish people **BY**
DOING good. As God's slaves, **live as**
free people, but don't use your freedom
as a way to conceal evil.

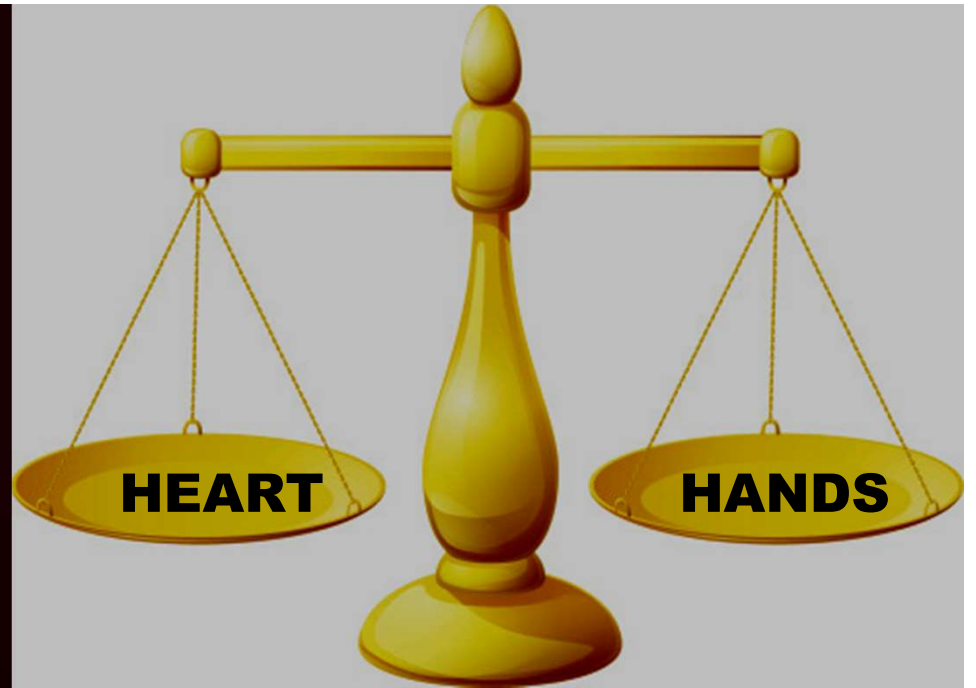
→ They **Will** be **DOERS**

not

just **HEARERS**

Our Relationship with GOD
our Religion Must Impact our...

- **Words** - What we **SAY**
- **Actions** - What we **DO**
- **Character** - Who we **ARE**



Hands **AND** Heart

- **Compassionate Action** - without Godly Character
- **Godly Character** - without Compassionate Action

→ Being a **DOER** of God's **WORD**

is about

our **HEARTS** -and- our **HANDS**

James 1:22 (ESV)

But be **DOERS** of the **WORD**, and not hearers only, **DECEIVING** yourselves.

James 1:26 (NLT)

If you claim to be **RELIGIOUS** but don't control your tongue, you are **FOOLING** yourself, and your **religion** is **WORTHLESS**.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Let us then approach **the THRONE** of
Grace with **CONFIDENCE**,
so that
we may receive **MERCY** and find
GRACE to **help us** in our time of need.