# Keeping It Real

James 1:26-27

**Overview**

Is your faith the real thing? The genuineness of your ‘religion’ is verifiable. One of the challenges we face as followers of Jesus is genuineness – keeping and living out our faith in an authentic way. One of the greatest challenges we have as a community of believers is to help each other stay on the course of genuine, Bible obeying, Christ focused spirituality. For both you as an individual and us as a church, the greater danger is not apostasy – adopting false teaching but accepting an artificial spirituality – doing Christianity in a way that seems acceptable or even impressive but is not the real thing.

**Notes**

**Keeping it real - 2 Truths.**

* Adversity reveals reality.
* Salvation transforms reality.

**Keeping it real - 3 Questions.**

* Have you wandered off or been led astray?
* Are you counting wrong?
* Are you cheating?

**Keeping it real - 3 Verifiable marks.**

* Controlled speech
* Care for the vulnerable
* Personal holiness

**Reflection Questions**

1. How would you identify your religious blind spots? Who can you ask to provide some loving and truthful assistance?
2. Explain in your own words the connection between adversity and receiving the ‘implanted word’ with meekness.
3. Share a story of how you have grown from ‘worthless religion’ to the real thing through adversity and the word.
4. What do you want to do, use or remember from today’s study?