

*Salt Church*  
*James 1:19-25*  
*Doers of the Word*  
*July 26, 2026*  
*The Fruit of Salvation*

**David and Cindy**

*(Before we get started)*

- Current and upcoming transitions
  - There is no doubt as we transition into a permanent home that things will be different
  - **New location and more opportunities for ministry.**
  - Sundays and Wednesdays will remain the same but with more needs
    - We will need a parking team to help make the most of our new space.
    - We will meet in what will be our fellowship hall until the new sanctuary is complete.
      - This means that Wednesday night we will be setting up tables and chairs like we used to.
        - All of that will be temporary until the new sanctuary is complete.
    - Sunday school space will be different but we have a plan to accommodate all classes but I'm sure we will tweak it to make it better.

- ***In all of this we need to be patient with each other.***

Speaking of patience I need to express where we are with praise and worship

- Joe volunteered to fill in until we could figure out what our next steps are.
- I am under the assumption that all of our leaders are praying as we move forward.
- At this point God has not made it clear as to who will fill this spot permanently for us so I am requesting a few things from you:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Prayer**
    - Join us as we seek Gods will in this very important position
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Patience**
    - In our fast-food culture we want everything right away.
      - God will meet this need in His perfect timing
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Have faith**
    - God was not caught off guard by this so we can rest in His sovereign work to solve this problem.
  - **4<sup>th</sup> Come to me**
    - If you would like to talk about this, please come to me.
      - Gossip destroys because it is a sin.
    - The purpose of gossip is division so, don't do it
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Stay committed**

- In everything we do we must stay committed to these two purposes:
  - **Everything we do and say must be for the glory of God**
  - **Everything we do and say must bring glory to God by protecting the unity of the church.**

### ***I love you, Salt Church!***

- God is at work so, let's fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

### **PRAYER**

#### ***Recap:***

- Last week our attention was on the very important word “Peirazo”
- **Peirazo** is translated “trial, test, and tempt.”
  - James uses this word six times in verses 12-14
    - **It is left up to the reader to determine how it is translated.**
- We learned last week that **God does not tempt anyone ever!**
  - **Only Satan tempts** and the purpose of the tempting is to kill, steal, and destroy.
- **God will test** and the test is to make us complete, lacking in nothing.
- We also learned that those that persevere through the testing will receive the crown of life.
- In the end we learned that James had four points in last week's sermon:

- The testing, trials, and tribulations make us worthy of the crown of life.
- God test but He never tempts
- Do not be deceived! (Don't blame God for your sin)
- God's testing gives birth to life

*Now, up to this point James has brought to our attention what the Christians response should be to:*

- *“Trials and suffering”*
- *“Temptation”*
  - Today we add
    - *“The Word of God”*

***James 1:19-27***

***19 Know this, my beloved brothers. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;***

- This knowledge (quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger) must become wisdom for the whole church and not just its leaders.

***• Wisdom requires that we listen***

- *This is the wisdom that we asked for*
  - *and the wisdom that God gave generously*
- ***Here is what I know:***
  - ***No one has ever learned anything by talking***
    - But a great portion of what we learn often comes through listening.

**Why would James be talking this way?**

- **Two reasons come to mind.**
  - 1. This is a church filled with immature believers
  - 2. He wants to remind them of their new birth that he mentioned in verse 18

<sup>18</sup> ***He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.***

- If we (the church) are to be the firstfruits of all that He created we must remember our birth.
  - ***He chose to give us birth through the word of truth,***
    - **He chose us**, meaning we have nothing to boast about.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> **For it is by grace (God's grace came 1<sup>st</sup>) you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—** <sup>9</sup> **not by works, so that no one can boast.**

- ***He chose to give us birth through the word of truth,***
  - This new birth comes in and through the word of truth.
  - Meaning, truth is paramount. (always)

***So, here is the transition***

***<sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;***

- If we are to be the firstfruits of all that He created we need to embrace that we were born **through the word of truth.**

- This birth then must be passed down to the next generation of fruit.
- This means that we must be people of the truth both in the sense of knowing God's Word and in common everyday matters.
  - James then passes down to us wisdom by saying  
***“Know this, my beloved brothers. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;”***
    - Why would James say this?
    - My guess that this is a real problem within the church at that time
    - **God's people must be quick to hear**
      - Slow to speak
      - Slow to anger
        - WHY?

***<sup>20</sup>for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.***

- The anger of man does not lead to the “right-living of God.”
  - So, what does the Bible say about anger?

### **Ephesians 4:25-27**

***<sup>25</sup>Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup>“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil a foothold.***

- What does this mean?

- **Putting off falsehood and speaking truthfully** means stop lying and stop the gossip.
  - Paul's admonition is that these things must stop!
  - Our motivation must be for the protection of the unity of the body.
    - A lot of anger has been generated through the lies and gossip of people who care nothing about the unity of the church.
      - **Satan uses gossip to destroy churches**
        - Therefore we must address it quickly
- **“In your anger do not sin”**
  - It is possible to be angry and not sin.
  - Jesus did it when He flipped the money changers tables and chased the money changers out of the temple with a whip (Twice).
    - **Righteous indignation** often shows itself in actions like Jesus' and I am sure to those on the outside they would say that **it looks like sin** but it is the motivation of the heart that often determines if it is sin.
      - **Be careful how you judge**
- **“Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry”**
  - Why would the Holy Spirit say this?
    - **Because** time doesn't heal all wounds
    - **Because** often it is a simple misunderstanding that can and should be resolved right away
    - **Because** the longer it festers the worse the infection gets,

- **Because** the longer the devil has to put angry ideas into your heart and mind the worse the destruction.
- **“do not give the devil a foothold”**
  - There is a real danger in not dealing with anger right away
    - **Satan will use** that anger to destroy you and those around you.
    - **Satan will use** that anger to destroy your mental and physical health.
      - The Holy Spirit, Paul, and James agree, we must deal with our anger in a very righteous way.

### **Ephesians 4:29-32**

**<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

- How do we do this? (It starts with what James has said)
  - ***But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;***
  - Our motivation?
    - **<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**



## **James 1:21**

***<sup>21</sup> Therefore, laying aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness,***

- The key for me here is the phrase “laying aside”
  - The Holy Spirit through the pen of James is calling God’s children to do something.
  - ***1<sup>st</sup> we are called to make an honest assessment of our lives.***
  - ***2<sup>nd</sup> we are called to get rid of those things in our lives that God says are filthiness.***
    - **32 years ago this became a reality for me.**
      - I was wrapped up in the culture of the fire department
      - As I have confessed many times to you, God got my attention during a Sunday night drama about the last supper.
      - I confessed that night and the next morning I cleaned house.
        - I got rid of all of the things that bothered my conscience.
        - I wasn’t ready for the battle that would follow in the coming days but God was.
        - Through prayer and the reading of God’s word I was granted victory over those sins.
  - ***3<sup>rd</sup> “get rid of all that remains of wickedness”***
    - There are obvious things in our lives in which we know are filth (they must go!)

- **CLEAN THE HOUSE!**
  - **When you do this changes happen**
- You develop a sensitivity to things that never bothered you before.
  - **Let me give you an example:**
    - It was music for me
    - There were songs that I used to sing to the top of my lungs until I realized that what I was singing
    - This is the conviction of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
    - This would be just one example of getting rid of the remains of wickedness.
      - For you it may show up in clothes that reveal too much skin
      - It may be getting rid of some friends that celebrate wickedness
        - It can even mean putting some distance between you and a beloved family member until you have time to mature in your faith.

***Whatever the issue may be, trust the Holy Spirit.***

- Listen to Him
- Get into the Word of God for this is where He speaks the loudest.

***<sup>21</sup> Therefore, laying aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in gentleness receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.***

- I learned early that the Word of God is a healing salve for my soul.
- When the pressure is on and I can't sleep I run to the word of God.

- I do this because I need to hear His voice and if I am honest, I really don't care what I am reading as long as I am hearing His voice.
  - It is there that we talk.
    - He speaks through His word and I ask Him questions about what I am reading.
  - I don't think there have been very many times when what He said in His word didn't in some way speak to my situation.
    - This isn't about not going to Hell, this is about hearing from your Father.

**The Word of God is able to save your soul from Hell, no doubt.**

- But the implanted Word of God can also save your soul from sadness, depression, darkness, anger, jealousy, envy, disappointment, and despair.
- Stop saying that you do not like to read or that you cannot read.
- Reading your Bible is like every other discipline in your life,
  - It starts out slow but as you devote more and more time to it you find that you can't live without it.
    - It will change your prayer life
      - It will change your life.

***<sup>22</sup> But become doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.***

- “Doers of the Word,” ***we could change the world if we embraced that phrase.***

- There is so much that could be said here as it relates to being a **doer of Gods word** but let's keep it simple because simple works.
  - What does this look like?
  - How would Jesus answer this question?

*Jesus was asked this question in*

**Matthew 22:36-40**

**36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”**

**37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

- What does “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” mean?
  - It means that if we can do those two things we will accomplish everything the Bible says that **we need to do**.

*This is where we got our mission statement:*

- Love God
- Love People
- Grow Deeper
- Make Disciples

**It is a natural progression in which one leads to the other but all of it rest upon our love for the Father.**

- **If you love God** then you will love people

- **If you love God and people** then you will have a desire to grow in your knowledge of Him so that you can help the people grow in their love for Him.
- **If you love him and people and have grown** in your knowledge of Him then you will apply this knowledge and it will show itself as wisdom as you do what Jesus commanded us to do. (make disciples)
  - Love God, Love people, Grow deeper, & Make disciples!
    - **Therefore we become “doers of the Word”**

*Now there can be some confusion that can come with this command for James says “<sup>22</sup> But become doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”*

- There are those who think that if they come to church and listen to the preacher that this is all that is required of them.
- **No**, the expectation on all of our lives is that we would be doers of Gods word.
  - Gods desire for us is that we would be wise in His word meaning we must take the knowledge that we have gained from His word and ***apply it to our lives so that it becomes wisdom.***

**James is going to continue with this thought:**

<sup>23</sup> ***For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for once he looked at himself and has gone away, he immediately forgot what kind of person he was.***

- **You can hear the word of God and have an emotional moment** but if it does not change your life, you are like the man who looks in the mirror sees himself but as soon as you walk away you forget who you were.

### *Can you hear what the Holy Spirit is saying?*

- When you truly believe in your heart and confess with your mouth something changes.
  - Suddenly you have a desire to get rid of filthiness and wickedness in your life.
    - He changes how you think and feel
    - He changes how you talk and how drink and eat
    - He changes how you dress and what you spend your money on.
    - He changes what you watch and what you sing
    - ***He flips the tables of your world upside down*** and what a glorious flip it is!

### *James says it this way:*

***<sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does.***

- Why James?
- How can you say that, James?
- You're getting really close to the healthy / wealthy doctrine James!
  - **Blessed doesn't always show itself in health and wealth.**

- ***We will be blessed in what we do because we are finally on the same page as God our Father.***
  - Jesus and the Apostles are wonderful examples of this.
  - The Apostles (once they were filled with the Holy Spirit) lived for the glory of God.
  - They were doers of His will and word.
  - They were blessed with so many things from the ability to do miracles to supernatural rescues
  - They did it all without great wealth
  - All of them with the exception of John **died young.**
    - **All of them were blessed in all that they did!**
    - All of them are in Heaven cheering us on as we complete our mission for the cause of Christ.
    - **None of them regret giving up their lives for Jesus.**

### **So, what have we learned so far? (3 Things)**

- We should expect:
  - ***1<sup>st</sup> Trials and tribulations***
    - The whole earth shares in this experience
      - If you had never been chosen as a child of God you still would have suffered.
        - So, stop blaming God for the consequence of this sinful life.
          - The wages of sin is death but glory be to God that He has come to save us from sin and eternal death.

- *Christians have an advantage* in that they can rest in the fact that God the Father will use their pain and suffering to make them more like Jesus.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Temptation**
  - God test and Satan tempts
    - If you find yourself in a difficult situation, ask yourself is this sinful in motivation or is this just difficulty
      - If it is sin, its temptation
        - If not, it is a test
- **3<sup>rd</sup> We must be doers of the Word**
  - Listening or hearing the word of God is not enough
  - ***The non-negotiable command on our lives is to be doers of the Word.***
    - To listen to the word of God and not apply it to our lives makes us no better than the demons.

Close in prayer.