

WOMEN IN THE WORD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

THE BOOK OF JAMES – Growing Up In Christ

Scripture Reference Notes – October 3, 2023

Lesson Three

Just Do It! – James 1:19-27

The Life Application Study Bible breaks the book of James down by chapter.

Chapter Summary:

Chapter 1: Confident stand - What a Christian has.

Chapter 2: Compassionate service – What a Christian does.

Chapter 3: Careful speech – What a Christian says.

Chapter 4: Contrite submission – What a Christian feels.

Chapter 5: Concerning sharing – What a Christian gives.

James 1: 19-20 – My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

James says, **take note of this** (NIV), **this you know** (NASB), **understand this** (NLT). James makes a connection to what has been previously said in vv. 2-18, “take note of what I just said!” Listen to what I am saying!

Next comes a three-fold response to successful endurance. The Moody Commentary breaks them as:

First: quick to listen: 1:21-2:26, which counteracts sluggishness to obey God.

Hodges: “when we experience stress, we urgently need to be attentive to the wisdom that God offers us through His Word or through the counsel of others based on his Word.”

Proverbs 1:5 – Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.

Matthew 13:9 – He who has ears, let him hear.

Romans 10:17 – Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

The **second** response to successful endurance in trials is: slow to speak: 3:1-18, which corrects sin of the tongue.

Life Application Bible: When we talk too much and listen too little, we communicate to others that we think our ideas are much more important than theirs.”

Job 40:1-5 – The Lord said to Job, ‘Will the one who contends with the almighty correct Him?’ Let him who accuses God answer him! Then Job answered the Lord: I am unworthy, how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer, twice, but I will say no more.’”

Job was speaking that which he did not know. It is a good practice in times of stressful trials to put our hand over our mouth and just listen instead of speaking. God does not speak over our noise.

Job 42:3 – You asked, who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge? Surely, I spoke things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

Proverbs 10:19 – When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”

Proverbs 18:13 – He who answers before listening, that is his folly and his shame.

Proverbs 13:3 – He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

Proverbs 29:20 – Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 17:27-28 – A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.” Need I say more. ☺

The third response to successful endurance under trial is slow to anger:
Anger: strong feeling of displeasure or hostility.

James 4:1-5:12, evades outbursts in trials.

Matthew 5:22 - But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca, is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

Proverbs 29:22 – An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

Proverbs 30:33 – For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife.”

Proverbs 29:11 – A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

James 3:18 – Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

Matthew 6:33 – But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matt. 5:6 – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

There are 2 kinds of righteousness spoken of in the Word. There's positional righteousness and practical righteousness.

Positional righteousness: This is righteousness that we receive from God. It is given to us when we trust in Jesus, and it is based on Christ's sacrificial death. Theologians often describe it as *imputed righteousness*. Positional righteousness is not earned, it is given. It is a gift of grace that we receive by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Philippians 3:8-9 – What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Practical righteousness. Righteousness: acting in a morally correct manner. This is doing what is right. It is when Christians practice their position. It is trusting God, acting with discipline, building skill, and living in alignment with God's standards. Scripture repeatedly admonishes us to pursue what is right.

Ephesians 4:1 – As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

1 Peter 1:14-16 – As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy.

Proverbs 11:4-6 – Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

Hebrews 12:11 – No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Proverbs 21:3 – To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Proverbs 4:18 – The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

Swindoll puts it this way: “After preparing to receive the truth by opening the ears of the heart, zipping the lips, and suppressing the urge to strike back, we are ready to properly receive the truth.”

Be swift to hear/doing God’s Word

James 1:21 – Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted (or implanted) in you, which can save you.

James jumps into the “body” the main part of the letter with the conjunction:

Therefore: for that reason, so, consequently.

What is the word implanted in us?

Implanted: (emphytos: inborn), the word of truth.

How do we receive the word implanted in us? Get rid of, lay aside (as taking clothes off).

Evil: all filthiness (everything dirty), all -not just some- and as an overflow of wickedness in preparation to hear the Word of God.

Psalm 17:4 – As for the deeds of men, by the word of your lips, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent.

Luke 6:45 – 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 the mouth speaks.

Humility: the state of being humble; lack of pride.

Proverbs 11:2 – When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Zephaniah 2:3 – Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, and who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger.

Colossians 3:12 – Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

1 Peter 5:5 – Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Hodges: They should therefore, repent of any sin that defiled them and adopt the meek, child-like openness to God’s truth that was appropriate. This is James’s point here.

1 Peter 2:1-2 – Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

1 Peter 1:25 – but the word of the Lord stands forever. And this is the word that was preached to you.

James says that, the word planted (implanted) **can save us.**

NIV: save us, **NASB:** save your souls, **NLT:** has the power to save your souls.

Save: to rescue or preserve from danger; to deliver from sin.

Souls: persons essential self; that part of a person that is eternal.

Save your soul: Hodges: sosai tas psychas hymon: to save the life.

Proverbs 11:19 – The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death.

Proverbs 12:28 – In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.

Proverbs 13:14 – The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

James 1:22-25 – Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does.

Obeying God’s Word: a command here.

Luke 11:28 – He replied, Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.

Ezekiel 33:31-32 – My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

The man in the mirror

Observes (23-24)

Goes away (24)

Forgets (24)

Observes – to notice.

Goes away – to leave, fade, flee.

Forgets – to be unable to remember; to disregard intentionally.

Mirror: reflects the outward appearance.

Exegetical Commentary: “Generally made of polished bronze or copper, they produced dim and warped reflections. While one could gain a good impression of oneself, one could not simply glance at such a mirror and learn much. One would have to “consider” what they saw. What is seen in the mirror is meant to lead to action, usually regarded as remedial, for example, a dirty face that needs washing. Yet here this person goes away and fails to deal with the flaws that the mirror revealed.”

Proverbs 27:19 – As water reflects a face, so a man’s heart reflects the man.

2 Corinthians 3:18 – And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Ephesians 4:1-2 – As a prisoner for the Lord, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

In Colossians 3:1-4, the section on holy living says: Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

2 Peter 1:3-7 – His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his great and precious promises, so that

through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness; love.

James 1:25 – But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does.

The believer with the word
looks into (25)
perseveres (25)
acts (25)

Looks into – to bend over, to pour over.

Observes – (katanoeo) – to look at with reflection; to consider.

Acts – deeds; the process of doing.

John 20:5 – He bent over and looked at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in and 11, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. Angels desire to ‘peer into’ the contents of the apostolic gospel.

1 Peter 1:12 – It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told to you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

The perfect law of liberty: also called the royal law (James 2:8).

Psalm 19:7 – The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 – Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

John 8:31 – To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.’

Galatians 2:4 – This matter arose, because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

Galatians 5:1 – It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:13-14 – You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself.

1 Peter 2:16-17 – Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Ephesians 4:22-24 – You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

James 1:26-27 – If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James says, **if anyone considers himself religious.**

Religious/religion: the outward practice, the service of a god, worship or worshipping.

Hodges: “James is not concerned with the practice of religious exercises; however valuable they are in their place. Instead, he is concerned with down-to-earth conduct in relation to other people.”

James says that: **“if anyone considers himself religious and doesn’t keep a tight rein on his tongue.”**

Matthew 15: 1-11 – Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ‘Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!’ Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, “Honor your father and mother, and Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death. But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mothers is devoted to God, they are not to honor their father or mother with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. Jesus called the crowd to him and said, Listen and understand, what goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.

1 Peter 3:10 – Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

Proverbs 13:3 – He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

Proverbs 21:23 – He who guards his mouth, and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Their religious worship is worthless: pertain to being of no use, idle, empty, fruitless, useless, powerless, lacking truth.

Matthew 12:34-35 – “You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.” The tongue reveals the heart.

By contrast, James says that: Religion that our Father accepts is pure and faultless. Pure: undefiled: Not made corrupt, impure, or unclean: not defiled: untainted, uncorrupted, unstained.

Hebrews 7:26 – Such a high priest truly meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

Psalm 24:4 – He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his Savior.

Hebrews 13:16 – And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 – He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Deuteronomy 24:19 – When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Psalm 146:9 – The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. Zechariah 7:10 – Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigners or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 – At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Jesus said: Luke 4:18 – The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the

prisoners and recovery of sign for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

James says: And must not be defiled by the world.

Defiled: to make physically unclean especially with something unpleasant or contaminating.

Psalm 9:18 – But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.

Psalm 68:5 – A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

Barclay: “To God real worship did not lie in elaborate vestments or in magnificent music or in carefully wrought service; it lay in practical service and in the purity of one's own life.”

Zechariah 7:9-10 – This is what the Lord Almighty says: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.

Micah 6:6-8 – With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Next Week: October 10 – Missions Week; Join us in the sanctuary.

Next Lesson: October 17 – Lesson 4 Working Faith (James 2:1-26)