

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Doers And Not Hearers Only
James 1:19-27**

Last times...

- v2-5
- v8
- v12
- exhortation to bear the Family resemblance before God and man...
to live as Jesus-kind

This time...living as Jesus-kind in word AND in deed in these momentous days on earth and in this nation

Being faithful watchmen calling upon this nation to repent, calling for revival,
a movement of the Holy Spirit, before God's scheduled judgment for the rebellion
of man against Him

Because repentance and revival start with...the Church

Admonishment up-front:

- Eccl 12:11a The words of the wise are as goads
- Don't be thinking, "Oh, sure hope so-and-so is listening!"
- Don't be distracted with, "I need to get a CD of this message for so-and-so."
- Don't be using Scriptures in this message as a club with which to beat someone, let the Sword of the Spirit do its work
- Be focused on 2 Cor 13:5 because this is a Word for each of us, individually and personally
- We live in days in which there is no time for self-deception or for playing Church

We are in James 1

v19-20 let every man be:

To whom is the Holy Spirit thru James writing this letter?

- The world?
- Unbelievers?
- Believers?
- The Church?

This is a Word for every follower of Jesus Christ, to every child of God
This is a Word to the Church that is being tested and purified during difficult time

Each of us...without exception
at all times...peaceful or tumultuous, times of refreshing or great trial
in all of our relationships...without exception, with God foremost then all others
are to be Christ-like...merciful, gracious, slow to anger, longsuffering,
ready to pardon, of great kindness and compassion

- swift to hear
“prompt, ready, pre-disposed” to “hear with understanding”
More eager to listen than to talk

Among mankind there is so much talking, very little listening
Hearing but is not listening
Hearing while thinking of what they want to say as soon as
that other person stops to take a breath!
Talking without thinking...Ready, fire, aim!

Communication is not possible without listening

Among Jesus-kind, listening is more important than talking
The ears and the mind are fully engaged and the tongue is
taking a back seat
The “secret” to effective communication, upon which all
healthy relationships depend
e.g. 1 Peter 3:7 demands understanding; listening, thinking

- slow to speak

Prov 10:19
Prov 18:21
Prov 21:23
Prov 29:11, 20
Eccl 5:1-3

Being slow vs hasty gives our minds time to listen and think,
both of which are needed to speak like Christ

Prov 17:27-28

- slow to wrath
sloooooow to have “anger, violent passion” (1 Cor 13:4a)
not being impatient and short-fused

Prov 12:16
Prov 27:3
Prov 15:1, 18
Prov 14:29
Prov 16:32

Because our anger/wrath is

- carnal, an emotion of the flesh (Rom 7:18)
Eccl 9:3 the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and
 madness is in their heart
- self-centered, NOT God-centered and others-centered
- pleases our flesh but displeases God and hurts vs encourages others...
is sin
- contrary to v2-5 and v8 and v12
foolishness of the flesh vs wisdom of the Spirit
- not Christ-like...in fact is more antichrist-like
- must be nailed to the cross daily
Rom 6:6 our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of
 sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should
 not serve sin
Rom 6:11 reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto
 sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our
 Lord
- must be “denied” (Matt 16:24)
 - Prov 29:22
 - Matt 5:38-39 not vengeance but turn the other cheek
 - Matt 5:43-45, 48 love, bless, do good
 - Rom 12:20-21 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him;
 if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing
 thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be
 not overcome of evil, but overcome evil
 with good
 - 1 Cor 6:5-8 Why do ye not rather take wrong...
 be defrauded?
 - 2 Tim 2:22-26

In Chapter 3 we will consider the primary culprit in these “crimes of Passion” –
our tongue (Ch 3:6)

In context, the fruit of patience, wisdom, and enduring adversity:

1. ready ears
2. slow, measured tongue
3. slower, more measured anger

When is it the hardest to do what is right in God’s eyes?

When we are in a trial...being stretched and tested

Trials are God’s teaching moments, times of conforming into the image of
His dear Son

What is the best cure for a foul mood, when we are feeling not v19?

The Word of God

Me, Friday morning before my post-surgery eye exam, when I could not read Bible, mail, email, texts

I was irritated and grouching/muttering

But the Lord brought into my remembrance something Monica had said the prior evening: you can use my reading glasses

They worked, my time in the Word calmed by irritated soul

In irritating and annoying and difficult circumstances, lashing out in carnal anger serves no Godly purpose, in fact it works against God's purpose

On the other hand, is their place for righteous anger?

Be careful!

Ps 139:19-22

Ps 139:23-24

Ps 58:6-9

Ps 58:10-11

James 1:8, 16, 20

Therefore...

v21 lay apart...receive:

Make a wise choice that will glorify your Father which is in heaven

A. Lay apart

put away, throw away

all...not some or even most

filthiness...moral and spiritual dirt

superfluity of naughtiness...super-abundance of depravity and wickedness

Jer 17:9

all things self-...the most miserable place in the universe

B. Receive

receive...accept, take what is being offered

with meekness...humility, lowliness of mind and heart before the

Almighty Giver of every good and perfect gift

the engrafted Word...the implanted Seed (Parable of the Sower, Soil #4)

Ezk 36:26

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh

Jer 31:33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people

2 Cor 3:3 *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart

which is able...has the power of the all-powerful God
to save your souls...to

- give us newness of life, eternal life in Christ Jesus
- deliver us from the wrath of God (1 Thes 1:10, 1 Thes 5:9)
- preserve us from evil unto His kingdom (2 Tim 4:18)

The Word of God is our Light thru the darkness of tumultuous times and intense spiritual deceit

Ps 119:105 a lamp unto our feet, a light unto our path

Next word?

v22 doers...not hearers only:

A no-nonsense exhortation to do/obey, to walk the talk!

Actions speak louder than words

Actions say what we really believe

Luke 6:46

John 14:15

Faith (v3) and wisdom (v5) and enduring adversity (v12) and laying apart our dirt and receiving the engrafted Word (v21) are ACTIVE parts of our walk with Jesus...daily

Those things are for the

- doing \
- believing / all about love (Matt 22:36-40)
- obeying /

And those things change us in a John 3:30 way

To do all those is to love the Lord and each other

To not do all those is to love Self

The follower of Jesus Christ is expected to live in a Christ-like way...
to love in words and deeds

Ps 111:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*

If we talk the talk but do not walk the talk...

1 Cor 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing

Being a “Christian” is a way of living before God and man...

seeing, thinking, understanding, speaking, doing...

it is so much more than a profession and a water baptism

If we say we believe but live like we do not believe, we deceive ourselves
(and no one else!)

Self-deception is the most powerful and dangerous form of deception

v23-24 natural face in a glass...forgets what manner of man:

Remember, God-breathed words written to believers:

A hearer of the Word but not a doer of the Word is like a person that

- looks in the mirror and sees the same face he/she has had his/her entire life
- carries on with his/her day
- immediately forgets what kind of a person he/she is...
Jesus-kind (v18) vs mankind...born again vs unregenerate

With mankind vs Jesus-kind, the gifts of God (grace, faith, salvation) are

- hoarded vs shared (Matt 25:14-30)
- received with ingratitude (Luke 17:11-19)
- abused/misused as self-righteousness of the hypocrite (Luke 12:1, Matt 24:48-51, Is 5:21)
- “dis-continued”

1 John 2:18-19

2 Tim 4:10 Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world

2 Thes 2:3 Let no man deceive you (about the day of Christ)...
there come a falling away first

To hear involves our ears and our mind.

To do involves the commitment of our heart ie “putting our heart into it”

head knowledge is not saving faith (Rom 2:29, Rom 10:2)

heart knowledge (changed heart) is saving faith, lasting and enduring

James 2:14-26

Next word?

v25 looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues...doer...blessed:
Whosoever will

- take the time and effort to look, believe, and do the perfect/complete law of liberty

The Law of Love

The Spirit of the Law

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty

vs

James 2:10

John 1:17

Matt 5:17

Rom 10:4

Rom 7:1-6

v21b

- continue
not stop before crossing the Finish Line
not veering to the right or the left with winds of false doctrine
abiding in Christ, remaining centered on Jesus Christ,
being Christ-like
sanctification...not my will be done but Your will be done

John 8:31-32 continue in My word

Acts 2:42 continued in 4 vital things

Col 1:23 continue steadfast in the faith

Gal 5:1-6, 14-15 (context: simmering division in the church regarding the Gospel...Grace or Law?)

- shall be blessed
v12
“Blessed is the man”...

v26 seem to be religious...religion is in vain:
 A Word about not walking the talk

If someone among you...in the Church
seems to be...thinks himself to be, supposes himself to be, puts on a good show
religious...pious, holy
and bridles not his tongue...Ch 3, not v19, not 1 Cor 14:3
but deceives his own heart...thinks he is Christ-like when in reality he is more
 anti-Christ-like
this man's religion...his ceremonial observances, his worship
is vain...empty, profitless, worthless, good-for-nothing, not fooling God

An uncontrolled tongue is an agent of self-deception,
 self-deception is the most powerful and dangerous form of deception

v27 Pure religion:
 What is a fruitful, worthy, profitable, acceptable, pleasing to the Father
 “doing of the Word”?

- To love (action vs emotion, deeds vs words) the defenseless needy
 - fatherless
 - widow

God is the God of the fatherless and widow...
 they have a very special place in His heart

Prov 19:17
Prov 21:13
Prov 22:22-23

Ps 68:5	A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, <i>is</i> God in his holy habitation
Ps 146:9	The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down
Eccl 4:1	behold the tears of <i>such as were</i> oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors <i>there was</i> power; but they had no comforter
Eccl 5:8	If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for <i>he that is</i> higher than the highest regardeth; and <i>there be</i> higher than they

- To guard against the filth of the world staining our testimony
James 4:4
John 17:17

Application/Lessons

1. General

Hearts of men are revealed in times of trouble/adversity, times of testing and purification like our days

In these days, we have a vitally important personal responsibility:

To be faithful and fruitful witnesses of Jesus Christ in a world convulsing in birth pangs before God's scheduled Tribulation that shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth

We are in the "2 minute drill" of

- God's Plan of Redemption
- the time of the Church being the witness of Jesus Christ on earth

and we are out of time outs!

1 Cor 7:29a But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short

1 Cor 7:31b for the fashion of this world passeth away.

That personal witness starts at home, it is seen everywhere we go...by what we do more than by what we say

We are a witness of Jesus Christ to every person in every interaction every day

We need Acts 1:8

Am I a follower of Jesus Christ?

Ask those closest to me

Ask those who see what I do and hear what I say

They surely know...and so does the Lord God Almighty!

Phil 1:6

PTL!!!!

But ease and pace of God's work is a function of our submission/choices daily

2. Specific

Each of us needs written on our hearts by the Holy Spirit these words: v19-22

Slow to react, quick to think and pray

"Deny and Do"

Starting at home, moving outside our home unto all people, unto God Who hears all!

While 2 Tim 3:13 is true...

evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived
so is 2 Tim 3:14

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of,
knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*

We read Eph 4:17-32

May those things be true of us in this time of adversity