

"True Faith and the Word of God"**Part 3****James 1:19-27**

Introduction: Today we come back to our study in the book of James. We are currently looking at a section that deals with the believer's response to the Word of God. Starting in James 1:18 and going through 1:27 the theme is "The believer's response to the Word".

Notice James 1:18, 21, 22, 23, 25

Every one of these verses pertain to God's Word which means God's Word is the central focus in these verses which we are looking at.

Now I know that I have said this before but I am going to say it again, "The distinguishing mark of a True believer is their obedience to God's Word". Obedience to the Word of God is proof that we are a child of God. Let me share with you a couple of verses from 1 John.

1 John 5:13

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

What are "these things" which John is writing about? "These things" would be what is recorded in John's letter which includes some verses that pertain to obedience to God's Word.

1 John 2:3-5

³ *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

⁴ *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

⁵ *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

These are the "things" which John wrote so that we might know for sure that we have eternal life.

James knew this Truth which John wrote about and for that reason James includes in James 1:19-27 a test for each of his readers. The test is "How do we respond to the Word of God?"

James knew there was a great danger which existed in his day. The danger was that people confused religion with salvation.

Religion is a person reforming their life.

Salvation is a transformation that takes place from the inside out when a person comes to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

As I told you before James was concerned that some of his readers would confuse religion with salvation. He knew that TRUE salvation would produce works in the life of the believer.

James 2:17-20

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Now the section which we are in James is dealing with how True faith will respond to the Word of God. The last time we were together we looked at James 1:19.

I. Surrender

Notice James 1:19

Here James tells his listeners to :

1. Be swift to hear.
2. Be slow to speak.
3. Be slow to wrath.

Each one of these pertains to the Word of God. A True believer will:

1. Desire to hear the Word.
2. Be hesitant to teach the Word (unless called by God).
3. Will accept the Truth of the Word even when it convicts them of sin.

So from this verse we could say that as believers we are to hear and surrender to the Word.

James then gives the reason.

Notice James 1:20

This is directly related to what James said in 1:18 when he wrote that we were saved to be "firstfruits" meaning that we were saved to be set apart as holy or were we saved to be like Him. If we suppress the Truth of God then we will not grow in our walk and thus become more like Him.

Let me show you what Paul wrote about spiritually gifted men given to the church.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

¹³ *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

¹⁴ *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

¹⁵ *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

I am called to teach you the Word and as you surrender to the Word then you continue to grow in your spiritual walk. But there is a requirement with the surrender.

Notice James 1:21

The word "wherefore" connects back to the thought on wrath. We are not to get angry when the Word convicts us but instead we are to allow it to have its proper place then verse 21 comes into play.

Notice James 1:21 again.

Let me define some words here for you:

- a. Filthiness - This refers to that which defiles.
- b. Superfluity - This refers to an abundance.
- c. Naughtiness - This refers to ill will or having the desire to cause injury to someone.

There is something here that I want you to grasp. There seemed to be an ill will with these people toward those who had brought the persecution. James is calling for them to lay all sin and all ill will aside. In other words he is calling on them to extend forgiveness toward those who were persecuting them.

Now let me go a little farther with this thought. James knew that as long as there was any sin in their lives including ill will toward those who had persecuted them that they would not grow. If they were carrying a chip on their shoulder because of how they had been treated then it was hindering their spiritual growth.

Application:

Let me bring this into our lives if I can for a moment. If there is sin in your life it will hinder your spiritual growth. That even includes carrying a grudge toward someone who has somehow offended you in the past.

Listen: James idea here is that when you hear the Word and you are convicted of sin then we are to deal with the sin. If we don't then we are grieving the Holy Spirit.

Let me give you a picture of what happens when sin gets in the believer's life.

Remember the book of Esther? When we studied that book a while back I shared with you a spiritual picture within the book. In the story of Esther there are some beautiful types.

- a. The King and his kingdom represent the believer.
- b. Haman represents the sin nature.
- c. Mordecai represents the Holy Spirit.
- d. Esther represents the spirit of man.

Now in the story Haman hated Mordecai and issued a decree to kill all the Jews in the kingdom. This caused Mordecai to react in a certain way.

Esther 4:1

When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

Mordecai represents the Holy Spirit and here is a picture of the Spirit being grieved because of what was happening in the kingdom, which represents the believer.

Then Esther found out that Mordecai was in sorrow but she did not yet know why.

Esther's first response was to send new garments to Mordecai.

Esther 4:4

⁴ So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not.

Mordecai would have nothing to do with it.

This is a picture of how sin cannot be covered up. It must be dealt with. It is not a new garment that is needed but a NEW GOVERNMENT. The Holy Spirit must be given authority in our lives and the sin nature must be dethroned.

Then word was sent to Esther of the details.

Esther 4:7-12

⁷ And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

⁸ Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

⁹ And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

¹⁰ Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

¹¹ All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

¹² And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

This is a picture of quenching the Spirit. The Spirit brings to your attention the sin and you say I cannot deal with that.

Esther was then rebuked by Mordecai and then she surrendered.

Esther 4:13-16

¹³ Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

¹⁴ For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

¹⁵ Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

¹⁶ Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

In order to deal with the sin Esther had to deny herself and follow the instructions of Mordecai.

In order for you and I to deal with the sin the Holy Spirit brings to our attention we must deny ourselves and surrender to the Spirit and the Word.

Now let me go back to the "ILL WILL" of these believers again.

There seemed to be ill will within these believers and most likely it was the result of the persecution which had caused them to be scattered. These believers seemed to have within them a desire to get even with those who had brought the persecution and James

was reminding them that the unforgiveness which they were harboring was hindering their spiritual growth.

Application:

Are you harboring unforgiveness toward someone? If you are it will hinder your spiritual growth. God has this morning brought the sin to your attention and it is your responsibility to receive with meekness the engrafted Word.

Let me show you how important this is.

Job 42:10

¹⁰ *And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.*

Conclusion:

Colossians 3:12-15

¹² *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

¹³ *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

¹⁴ *And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

¹⁵ *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*