

Study of the book of James

Part 3 – (James 1:19- 2:13 & 3:1-12)

Works of faith (1:19-2:13 & 3:1-12)

- A. Listening and doing / reception of God's word (1:19- 27)
- B. Impartiality – warning against Prejudice (2:1-13)
- C. Controlling the tongue (3:1-12)

A. Listening and doing / reception of God's word (1:19-27)

a. Hearing, speech, anger:

Verse 19,20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

- Quick to hear (means quick, swift, speedy, careful attention, taking heed)

The order is usually reversed for us – slow to hear, quick to speak and quick to anger. We hear something and we create our own mental opinion even without checking the facts. That leads to anger and our mouth begins to blurt out words unnecessarily. This leads to hurt and destruction of relationships may be in your office, workplace, friends, family or with siblings.

Proverbs 18:2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Proverbs 18:13 Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

- Slow to speak: (Be late to speak)

Giving someone our undivided attention and really listening, instead of just thinking about what we're going to say next, is the best gift we can give. And remember that sometimes the best thing we can say is nothing at all. **Words spoken quickly are difficult to recall. Hasty and unguarded words do great harm.**

Check before I speak: Is it truthful? Is it necessary? Is it timely? Will it build somebody or tear down? I'm I being God's representative/ bring glory to God? Words spoken can be remembered for a long time.

We need to watch out for the half-truths, implications, and exaggerations. If spreading a lie without checking the facts it can cause destruction.

Quick to hear, evaluate before you speak, filter/weigh your words, Be late to speak.

Proverbs 13:3 Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Proverbs 29:20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 18:13 *If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.*

Proverbs 15:1 *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Proverbs 17:28 *Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.*

➤ Slow to anger (Doesn't say not to get angry)

Ecclesiastes 7:9 *Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.*

Psalms 4:4 *Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.*

Ephesians 4:26 *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,*

Proverbs 15:18 *A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.*

Proverbs 14:29 *Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.*

Proverbs 16:32 *Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

Sometimes a calm-spirited person can give a word of stability in a tense situation. A soft answer turns away wrath:

"A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger" (Psalm 15:1)

Perfect Example of Jesus:

Isaiah 53:7 *He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

Psalms 86:15 *But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*

V. 20 *for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

It is the word for smoldering anger that holds a grudge against someone. Don't hold your anger (however reasonable it may be) it can turn into resentment.

'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:26-27).

'Be Still & know that I am God'. Psalm 46:10

- **Reception of God's word:** Verse 19,20 also relates to the hearing of the Word. Not just normal interaction or communication.

V. 21 'Therefore' put away all filthiness and rampant (overflow) wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

'Therefore' means the conclusion drawn from previous verse. Deliberately lay it aside like a filthy garment. The idea of "lay aside" is to put off from oneself.

All- Put aside everything. Anything that separates our soul from the Savior and disrupt our walk with God - Constant struggle - Satan pulls us in one direction, and the Word of God pulls us in another direction.

Overflow of wickedness: Greek term "overflow" to describe the excess of wax in ears. When our ears plug from too much wax, we cannot hear very well. We cannot be receptive to truth when sin **plugs** our spiritual ears.

Receive with meekness : means to welcome. Meekness is an attitude that we earn or deserve nothing from God, but everything we have from Him is by grace.

Note the attitude of the Thessalonians toward the Word – they listened to the Bible as if it were God speaking to them personally:

"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

They received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received (Anadechomai – welcomed/ embraced) the promises was in the act of offering up his only son (Hebrews 11:17)



ALLOW THE WORD OF GOD TO TAKE ROOT IN OUR LIFE/ HEART.

Parable of the Sower: Mathew 13: 3-9

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed,

Some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. (People who come, hear the message, but it is immediately lost. You are hearing but seed is falling elsewhere.)

Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. (people who respond with initial enthusiasm, but the word of God does not sink in deep, forgotten before they leave the church)

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. (Distraction, cares of the world took most of their time)

8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

It is same word but different platforms of receiving the word. Thirty, sixty and hundredfold depends directly on how you receive the word.

The enemy always comes to steal, kill and destroy. It is progressive in nature. He knows the word has immense power if it grows inside of you. So his plan is to steal the word in you.

Importance of hearing: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). First mark of a heart that is receptive to God's word is that it is quick to hear the word.

Don't just be hearers but doers of the word:

V. 22-27 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving (misleading) yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

True word (James 1:18)

Implanted word (James 1:21)

Word that has power to save your souls (James 1:21)

Word like a mirror (James 1:23)

Perfect law of liberty (James 1:25)

A "doer" of the Word is someone who practices what he/she believes.

The word "be" means become. "Become what you are not now – doers of the Word – rather than talk about the Word." The Greek tense conveys the idea of keep on doing, "Keep on becoming doers of the Word."

"If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:17).

"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14).

A "hearer" is someone who passively sits under the teaching of God's Word and it has no effect on him. It goes in one ear and out the other.

A **mirror** shows us our dirty faces. We can correct this by washing our face. Word of God does cause us to see our true spiritual condition.

Goes away: The word “forgets” can mean neglect, disregard. The idea of “goes away” carries the thought of leaving permanently.

Looks into : The words “looks into” primarily mean to stoop sideways, to bend over, and then to stoop to look into. The idea is to stoop for the purpose of looking at. This is a very strong term for observation, stronger than the word for “look into” in the previous verse

The idea of “bridle” is control. We control a horse by a bridle. Here, it is the control of the tongue. A person who does not keep her mouth shut deceives her own heart.

*“I said, ‘I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue;
I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle,
While the wicked are before me’” (Psalm 39:1).*
*“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips” (Psalm 141:3).*

V. 27 before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble,

Before God the Father – Father of orphans & widows

To visit : The idea of the words “to visit” is to oversee, to look after.

“Blessed is he who considers the poor; The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble” (Psalm 41:1).

B. Impartiality – warning against Prejudice (2:1-13)

James 2:1- 13

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

Partiality : Literally, the word means to accept a face. This gives preference for the outward and circumstantial rather than the intrinsic value of a person. It’s about treating some people better than other people.

God is completely impartial in His dealings with us. ***There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:28***

Deut 1:17, "You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's.

Deut 10:17, "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe."

Acts 10:34,35 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism (no respecter of persons) but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

C. Controlling the tongue :

The idea of "bridle" is control. If we can hold our tongue, we can control anything (our entire being) because the tongue is a great power for good or evil.

Taming the tongue is a sign of maturity. The tongue reveals character in a manifest way. It is the telltale sign of the condition of the heart. As a medical doctor looks at our tongues to determine the condition of our health, God looks at our tongues to determine the condition of our spiritual health.

Psa 39:1, "I said, 'I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."

James 3: 1-12 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

4 Analogies that James uses to show the power of the tongue :

Horses controlled by a bit in the mouth, turns in the direction we need

Ships controlled by a small rudder – turns wherever the pilot directs.

Entire Forest set ablaze by a small fire

Every beast can be tamed except the tongue

Although the tongue is small, it has great power to do good and bad. It can affect our entire lives. Just like a small piece of metal enables us to control a 1500-pound animal such as a horse, so the discipline of the tongue allows us to control our lives.

There is great power in what we say. Words cannot be taken back. Blessing & curse is in the power of the tongue.

Fresh & salt water cannot come out of the same spring. Fig tree does not bear olives & grapevine at the same time. So then how can blessing and curse come out of the same mouth? How can gossip/ cussing & worship come out of the same mouth?

Ephesians 4:29 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.

Colossians 4: 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Proverbs 15: 4 The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 31:26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Prayer:

Lord I want to use my tongue not for slander, accusation, gossip but for praising, to represent you in our conversion, to become a fountain of life, healing !