

~~Right - Tempt~~
~~Submit - test~~

Height of Frustration is to reverse 41
these. And Fight The Test & Submit to the
Temptation !!

STUDY # THREE
GROWTH IS PRODUCED BY THE WORD 1:19-27

KEY VERSE: 1:21 Wherefore having laid aside all moral uncleanness and wickedness, which is abounding, in meekness receive the implanted Word which is able to save your souls.

MEMORY VERSE: 1:22

TEXT: 1:19-27

You know this, my beloved brethren, now let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. For a man's wrath does not bring about the righteousness of God. Wherefore having laid aside all moral uncleanness and wickedness, which is abounding, in meekness receive the implanted Word which is able to save your souls. But keep on becoming doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at the face of his birth in a mirror. For he looked at himself and he has gone off and immediately forgot what sort of person he was. But he who has looked into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and has continued in it, not having been a hearer who forgets, but a doer who works, this man shall be blessed in what he does. If any man is thinking himself to be religious, not holding in check his tongue but is deceiving his own heart, his religion is worthless. Religion which is pure and undefiled in the presence of our God and Father is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress, to keep oneself unspotted by the world.

EXPOSITION: In our studies we have noted two pointers for Progress. First of all, "we grow taller through testing" and second, "growth is stunted by sin." Now we come to a consideration of the third study, Growth is Produced by the Word.

1. Paul tells Timothy in his 2nd letter, 3:16-17 that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, and righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Verse Nineteen: You know this my beloved brethren, now let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

1. James is reminding these folks of things they already know. There are three admonitions. First of all, he asks them to be quick to hear; secondly, slow to speak, and thirdly, slow to anger. The natural instinct of man is to be slow to hear, quick to speak, and quick to anger. As a result of the work of the Spirit in our lives, the reverse, however, can be true.
2. * Psalm 46:10 "Stand silent, know that I am God, I shall be honored by every nation in the world."
3. * Isaiah 30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying this is the way, walk ye in it, when you turn to the righthand and when you turn to the lefthand."
4. James says in chapter 3:2 "For we commit many sins. If anyone does not stumble on words, this one is a fully developed man, able to hold in check also his entire body."

Attitude as we approach the word. Test or Tempt.
to the word !!

February 21
Tuesday

GROOVES OF GRACE

READ:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

I discipline my body
and bring it into
subjection.

—1 Corinthians 9:27

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

■ Numbers 1-3

■ Mark 3

of routine? Or will they become "grooves of grace"?

Paul referred to his life's journey as a race. He learned that the only way to stay the course was to "discipline [his] body and bring it into subjection" (1 Corinthians 9:27). That implied establishing a consistent pattern of godly behavior.

Good health habits are important, but spiritual disciplines are far more important. Are we choosing to develop consistent habits of prayer, Bible reading, and kindness?

A habit is just a rut of routine. But good spiritual discipline can transform our ruts into grooves of grace. —Vernon Grounds

Lord, keep me in Your groove of grace,

The chosen path for me;

Your will I daily will embrace

Until eternity. —Hess

**In the beginning we make our habits;
in the end our habits make us.**



Those who truly
aspire to be
Christlike
should not be
surprised when
the mob comes
to crucify them.

YOUR DAILY WALK "I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little" (Philippians 4:11). Do you recognize those words? They aren't the declaration of a plaster saint or the meaningless small talk of featherbed royalty. Rather, they are the carefully reasoned words of Paul—a man who had been beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, imperiled, and impoverished. He had learned the secret of being content, regardless of the circumstances swirling around him.

Jeremiah was much like Paul. On trial for his life, slandered by a fellow prophet, faced with a howling mob demanding his blood, Jeremiah calmly went about delivering his God-given message of judgment and doom. He lived above his circumstances, not under them, in his walk with God.

Tests
Temptations
WORD

Handle the
Tests victoriously

Temptations

When Godly People Do UNGodly Things Beth Moore

GOD'S PERMISSIVE WILL

believer. Practical Application: The enemy is the devil. . . . He will do everything he can to deceive and capture the believer.¹

- "[comp. 'method']; travelling over, i.e. travesty (trickery): — wile, lie in wait."²
- "Method, the following or pursuing of an orderly and technical procedure in the handling of a subject."³

Eph. 6:10-13 'strategies'

No matter how often I've seen or even shared the definitions of *methodeia*, my skin crawls every time. I hope you absorbed the concept soberly. The most obvious English word found in the Greek is *method*. If we could only understand that the devil does not work haphazardly but carefully, methodically, weaving and spinning, and watching for just the right time. He truly has method to his madness. He draws out plans and executes them very carefully. He carefully sets traps for the express purpose of wreaking destruction in the lives of the saints.


Earlier we discussed that anything God does, Satan attempts to counterfeit. One of the first biblical principles most believers learn concerning their new agenda is that God has a *plan* for their lives. Please hear this with your whole heart, believer: *so does Satan*. Consider the following truths and their suggested counterfeits:

- * "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).
- * "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the devil, "plans to totally bankrupt you and to harm you, plans to make you hopeless and to destroy your future."

p. 81

When Satan turns up the heat, I often say something like this to myself: *You have no idea what's going on out there, old girl. This could be really important. Stand firm and don't give the yell leaders of hell anything to cheer about. God is for you.* Back up a second. Do you realize God is *for you*? Yes, the stakes are high. Yes, the battle is rough and sometimes seems unbearable, but *God is always for us*. Then why does He let our opponents hit us so hard? To prove that we, mere mortal flesh and blood, terribly self-centered by nature, really are *for God*.

Perhaps right about now, you're feeling sick inside thinking, *But I've already blown my play. I failed my test.* Listen here, brother or sister. Do you want to talk about someone who has blown some plays? I have! But I'm thankful to say God didn't take me off the team. He took me to the locker room, gave me a little chewing out, a lot of coaching, a little cheering, and sent me back onto the field. His strategy seemed to be making the competition tougher and tougher until I had to toughen up or die. To the glory of God, I have made most of my plays since then.



Temptation is Real !!

Genesis 4:6, 7

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Luke 22:31, 32

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

WORD

15:16

Jeremiah 16:15

"when your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty."

~~but they will say, 'As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers.~~

If your study of God's Word does not change the way you live, either you are already perfect or not studying correctly.

How should you read the Bible? The key is a responsive heart. God wants his Word to change your life as it convicts you of sin and instructs you in righteousness. Ignoring God's commands is dangerous business. In fact, it would be better not to know them at all than to know them and then not obey.

Chip Ingram Invisible War

"Having Girded Your Loins with Truth"

The real secret to happiness isn't anywhere in prime-time entertainment, of course. The key to a fulfilled life has nothing to do with fast cars, revolving partners, or this year's fashions. Those are just counterfeits with which the enemy and the flesh conspire to tempt us. And the remedy—the number one defense against this devious deception—is to clothe ourselves in truth.

#8

p83

Wield Your Weapons

The deceit, the lie of the devil, consists of this: that he wishes to make man believe that he can live without God's word.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

#9 p. 139

- ① Quick to hear - too soon much
 ② slow to speak - Irritated too quickly
 ③ slow to anger - Irritated too quickly

5. One who is quick to hear and slow to speak has learned the lesson of controlling his tongue, so as a result he will control his body and the rest of his actions. A natural outgrowth of being quick to hear and slow to speak will be a slowness to anger.
6. The parrot and the owl form good examples of the weakness of chatter and the wisdom of silence. It is also good for us to remember that God created us with two ears and only one mouth. This is so we will listen twice as much as we talk.
7. "A wise old owl lived in an oak. The more he knew, the less he spoke. The less he spoke, the more he knew and this same thing applies to you."
8. The immature person, who is not following the Pointers for Progress that James is setting out for us, will be one who will become disheartened by the testing of his faith and who will be wanting to gratify his own selfish desires. Who also will be one who is never listening but always ready to give a piece of advice and when things don't go his way, to get very angry.

Verse Twenty For a man's wrath does not bring about the righteousness of God.

1. Here James gives us the reason for his three-fold command in verse 19. The reason being that a man's wrath does not bring about the righteousness of God.
2. There are many illustrations in the scripture to fortify this statement. Way back in the book of Genesis Cain found out that his wrath did not work the righteousness of God, for in his wrath he took the life of his brother, Abel.
3. Moses learned that his anger in smiting the rock instead of speaking to it did not work the righteousness of God.
4. Namaan was enraged by the fact that the prophet suggested that he dip himself seven times in the Jordan to cure his leprosy.
5. Jonah found out that his anger did not work the righteousness of God. Colossians 3:6-10--God's terrible anger is upon those who do such things. You used to do them when your life was still part of this world, but now is the time to cast off and throw away all these rotten garments of anger, hatred, cursing, and dirty language. Don't tell lies to each other. It was your old life, with all its wickedness, that did that sort of thing. Now it is dead and gone; you are living a brand new kind of life that is ever learning more and more of what is right and trying to be more and more like Christ who created this new life within you.

Verse Twenty-One: Wherefore, having laid aside all moral uncleanness and wickedness, which is abounding, in meekness receive the implanted Word which is able to save your souls.

1. This is the key verse in Pointer #3 in our Pointers for Progress Growth is produced by the Word. As the Word of God is allowed to take root in our lives, it then begins to bring about growth and development in making us more like Jesus Christ.

"Don't let the sun go down on your wrath..."

"He hath said."—Hebrews xiii. 5.

IF we can only grasp these words by faith, we have an all-conquering weapon in our hand. What doubt will not be slain by this two-edged sword? What fear is there which shall not fall smitten with a deadly wound before this arrow from the bow of God's covenant? Will not the distresses of life and the pangs of death; will not the corruptions within, and the snares without; will not the trials from above, and the temptations from beneath, all seem but light afflictions, when we can hide ourselves beneath the bulwark of "He hath said"? Yes; whether for delight in our quietude, or for strength in our conflict, "He hath said" must be our daily resort. And this may teach us the extreme value of *searching* the Scriptures. There may be a promise in the Word which would exactly fit your case, but you may not know of it, and therefore you miss its comfort. You are like prisoners in a dungeon, and there may be one key in the bunch which would unlock the door, and you might be free; but if you will not look for it, you may remain a prisoner still, though liberty is so near at hand. There may be a potent medicine in the great pharmacopœia of Scripture, and you may yet continue sick unless you will examine and search the Scriptures to discover what "He hath said." Should you not, besides reading the Bible, store your memories richly with the promises of God? You can recollect the sayings of great men; you treasure up the verses of renowned poets; ought you not to be profound in your knowledge of the words of God, so that you may be able to quote them readily when you would solve a difficulty, or overthrow a doubt? Since "He hath said" is the source of all wisdom, and the fountain of all comfort, let it dwell in you richly, as "A well of water, springing up unto everlasting life." So shall you grow healthy, strong, and happy in the divine life.

*The words
in our
Lives!*

Growth = ① Subm. Hing to test
② Resisting Tempt.
③ Partaking of God's Word

Milk
Mush
Meat

2. 1 Peter 2:1-3 "So get rid of your feelings of hatred. Don't just pretend to be good. Be done with dishonesty and jealousy and talking about others behind their backs. If you have tasted the Lord's goodness and kindness, cry for more as a baby cries for milk. Eat God's Word. Read it, think about it, and grow strong in the Lord."

3. The Lord Jesus likened the scriptures to seed that falls on different types of soil in Matthew 13. The desire of James is that we might be like the good soil and we would receive the implanted Word and then he characterizes this "which is able to save our souls."

4. First of all, we will notice that he asks us to do two things: ① lay aside all moral uncleanness, and secondly, ② wickedness which is abounding. This is the negative side of the coin and then the positive is "in meekness receive the implanted Word which is able to save your souls."

5. David raises the question in Psalms 119:9 "Wherewithall shall a young man cleanse his way" and then he gives the answer in verse 11 "by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word. Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

6. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 "And we will never stop thanking God for this that when we preached to you, you didn't think of the words we spoke as being just our own, but you accepted what we said as the very Word of God, which of course it was and it changed your lives when you believed it."

7. It is the desire of James and certainly the desire of the Spirit of God to get the filthiness of sin out of our lives and the purity of the Word into our lives.

8. Fred Howard points out that "the implanted Word is the Christian's spiritual bread for growth toward maturity."

9. As we fail to study the scriptures and allow the Spirit of God to apply the scriptures to our hearts, we will remain immature.

10. Lehman Strauss points out that "where there is life, there will be growth. Only as the Word is really implanted does it become united with the heart. Unless the Truth becomes rooted in us, through faith, the fruit of righteousness cannot be brought forth. As the Word is rooted more deeply, the new life develops and the old life dies."

Verse Twenty-Two: But keep on becoming doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1. James, thus far in this section, has asked us to be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, and to lay aside moral uncleanness and wickedness and to receive the implanted Word and now we are not only to receive it but we are to be doers of the Word and not just hearers only, deceiving ourselves.

2. James points out further in chapter 4:17 that to the one knowing how to do good and is not doing it, to him it is sin.

3. Ezra 7:10 "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances."

4. Ezekiel 33:31 "And they come unto Thee as the people come and they sit before Thee as my people and they hear Thy Words but they will not do them. For with their mouth they show much love but their heart goes after their covetousness."

Heb 4:12,13

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Verse Twenty-Two:

1.

2.

3.

4.

You are what you eat...

1Pe 1:23

Jer. 15:16

Psalms 1:1

Appetite for Word

Corrie Ten Boom:

Have you read my book?

You are what you eat!!

Res. to implement

Jeremiah 36:11-28

When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the Lord from the scroll, he went down to the secretary's room in the royal palace, where all the officials were sitting: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Acbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials. After Micaiah told them everything he had heard Baruch read to the people from the scroll, all the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, to say to Baruch, "Bring the scroll from which you have read to the people and come." So Baruch son of Neriah went to them with the scroll in his hand. They said to him, "Sit down, please, and read it to us." So Baruch read it to them. When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king." Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?" "Yes," Baruch replied, "he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll." Then the officials said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah, go and hide. Don't let anyone know where you are." After they put the scroll in the room of Elishama the secretary, they went to the king in the courtyard and reported everything to him. The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him. It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him. Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes. Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the Lord had hidden them. After the king burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: "Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Psalm 119:9, 11

How can a young man keep his way pure?
By living according to your word.
I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Job 23:12

"I have not departed from the Commands
of his lips ; I have treasured the words
of his mouth more than my daily bread.

Handwritten signature

*5. How very refreshing it is to read in Exodus 24:7 "And he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people and they said all that the Lord hath said will we do and be obedient."

*6. Matthew 7:24-27 "All who listen to My instructions and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rains come in torrents and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won't collapse for it is built on rock. But those who hear My instructions and ignore them are foolish like a man who builds his house on sand. For when the rains and floods come and storm winds beat against his house, it will fall with a mighty crash."

7. What James is desirous of here is that these Christians will not be just content to hear the Word but that they will be putting it into practice in their daily lives.

* Verse Twenty-Three: Because if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at the face of his birth in a mirror.

1. In this 23rd verse, James gives us the reason he is making the command in verse 22, to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. He is using the illustration of looking into a mirror when we look into the scriptures.

2. Paul says in I Corinthians 13:12 "In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at His reflection in a poor mirror, but some day we are going to see Him in His completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now."

3. Before growth can take place in the life, one must see things as they really are. God has provided for us the mirror of the Word so that we might have a reflection to work on.

* Verse Twenty-Four: (For) he looked at himself and he has gone off and immediately forgot what sort of person he was.

1. Here James completes the illustration of just being a listener and not a doer. The man looked into the mirror alright and saw a reflection and evidently didn't like what he saw so he went off and forgot what sort of person he was. It is a painful process to look into the mirror because it shows us for what we really are. There is no possibility of flattery at this point.

2. In order for us to progress in our Christian experience, it will be necessary for us to look into the mirror often and then to remember what sort of person we are and to correct what we see. Looking into the mirror with the prayer of the psalmist, David, on our lips, is the climate that will provide growth and progress through the Word. Psalms 139:23-24 "Search me oh God and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts and see if there be any wicked way in me. And lead me in the way everlasting."

3. Paul admonishes the Colossians with the following words "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

obedience =
1. Blessing
2. Prosperity

Reason

Easy to
Rationalize
when we need
to Repent !!

Judge ourselves

4. Guy King, in his book A Belief That Behaves, says "You can help the face you were born with by reflecting the light you were new-born with."
5. Paul says in II Corinthians 3:18 "But we Christians have no veil over our faces, we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord as the Spirit of the Lord works within us. We become more and more like Him and reflect Him more and more brightly."
- Verse Twenty-Five But he who has looked into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and has continued in it, not having been a hearer who forgets, but a doer who works. This man shall be blessed in what he does.
1. Here James now forms the contrast to one who has looked into the mirror and gone off and forgotten about what sort of person he was with the man who is desirous to grow on to maturity and follow this Pointer of Progress in recognizing that growth is produced by the Word. He is one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and he continues in it.
 2. Jesus said in John 8:32 "And you shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free."
 3. Subjecting ourselves to the principles in the scripture, we find the way to a life of liberty in the truest sense of the word.
 4. James goes on to say that this person who continues in the perfect law of liberty is a person who has not been a hearer who forgets, but a doer who works. This man shall be blessed in what he does. What James is saying is that there is a believing of the Gospel and also a behaving of it. We must take the truth we have learned from the mirror of the Word and do something about applying it to our daily lives. This is the only way the Word can be effective in our lives to the point of producing growth.
 5. I am reminded, once again, of I Peter 2:2-3 "As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby. If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."
 6. This also agrees with the words of the psalmist in Psalms 1 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the Law of the Lord and in His Law doth he meditate day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of the water, that brings forth its fruit in its season. Its leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth, shall prosper."
 7. The choice before us here is that of a hearer who forgets or a doer who works. The person who is making progress and growing in his Christian life is one who is reading the scripture and then being a doer who works or one who puts into practice what he learns.
 8. We have the promise in the last statement of this verse. This man shall be blessed in what he does. In chapter 1:12, we learn that the man who holds his ground while being tested in the faith will receive the crown of life and here we find the man who is a doer of the scripture, is a man who will be blessed in that which he does.

Josh. 1:8

Psalm 1

Joseph

9. Barrett, in her book, makes reference to Pilgrim's Progress when she says "There is a wonderful story about a couple of pilgrims who are on their way to the celestial city and they got up into some mountains and ran into some Shepherds and the Shepherds gave them a beautiful looking-glass. Now the glass was one in a thousand, writes Bunyon, it would reflect a man one way, with his own features exactly but turn it another way and it would show the very face of the Prince of pilgrims Himself. Yea, I have talked with those who can tell and they have said they have seen the very crown of thorns upon His head. By looking into this glass, they have seen also the holes in His hands, His feet and His side. Yea, such an excellency is there in this glass that it will show Him to one if he has a mind to see Him."

Discipline *** Verse Twenty-Six: If any man is thinking himself to be religious not holding in check his tongue, but is deceiving his own heart, his religion is worthless.**

1. James gives us in verses 26 & 27 a negative and a positive illustration of what he means by a hearer who forgets and a doer who works.
2. Johnstone points out in this 26th verse "we have a hearer of the Word who attends church with great regularity. The Bible is familiar, and he regards his character with complacency and has a tongue unbridled and restrained by Christian judgment and feeling."
3. James will have a good bit more to say in chapter 3 with regard to this matter of the tongue.
4. Jesus says in Matthew 12:35-37 "A good man speech reveals the rich treasures within him. An evilhearted man is filled with venom and his speech reveals it and I tell you this, that you must give account on Judgment Day for every idle word you speak. Your words here reflect your fate. Either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned."
5. The Christian would do well to follow James piece of advice in verse 19 and that is to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.
6. Someone has said "Be sure your brain is in gear before you put your mouth into motion."
7. Paul mentions, in the fruitage of the Spirit, in Galatians 5, that one of these is self-control. As the Spirit has opportunity to work in our lives, He produces in us the ability to hold in check our tongue. The person who is not doing the Word, is one who is controlled by the flesh rather than by the Spirit, and as a result is not holding his tongue in check. But, there are two things he is doing, he is deceiving his own heart and his religion is worthless.
8. The picture here is a picture a man who comes to the worship service, he hears the scripture and he goes his way. He forgets what he has heard. He feels he is religious but he is deceiving his own heart and his religion is worthless. If, through the process of hearing the Word, he is not growing to the point where he is able to exercise discipline or self-control in holding his tongue in check.

Respond or React *

Sermon was for so & so...

9. In essence, what James is saying is that it takes discipline, the discipline of the Spirit, to be a doer who works rather than a hearer who forgets. Here James is wanting to put together the man's creed with his conduct; his profession with his practice.
 10. Paul speaks of the Bereans in Acts 17:11 as these were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
 11. Jesus also says in John 13:17, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."
- Verse Twenty-Seven** Religion which is pure and undefiled, in the presence of our God and Father is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress; to keep oneself unspotted by the world. James, in verse 26, has given a negative side to religious profession and in verse 27, he is giving us the positive side of it.
- There are two things that James says about pure and undefiled religion in verse 27. First, that one look after orphans and widows in their distress, and secondly, he keeps himself unspotted by the world. In other words, he is caring for the needs of others and secondly, he is keeping his life clean.
3. There are three qualities of a person who is a hearer of the Word and also a doer. First of all, he is manifesting discipline and self-control of his tongue and secondly, he is manifesting Christian love in his concern and caring for the needs of others. Thirdly, his life has a quality of purity about it in that he is keeping himself unspotted by the world.
 4. James is going to have more to say about the world in the 4th chapter.
 5. II Corinthians 6:17-18 "Wherefore, come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing. I will be a Father unto you and ye shall be My sons and daughters."
 6. Our astronauts, when they landed on the moon, found that the moon dust was a real problem. It was everywhere and they were unable to keep clean. James realizes there is a defiling influence in this world and compromise with it can only lead to uncleanness.
 7. Paul says in Romans 12:2 "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." John says in I John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world."
 8. Galatians 1:4 "Who gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil age according to the Will of God and our Father."
 9. James summarizes then by giving us three characteristics of a person who is doing the Word rather than just listening to it. First of all, he is a man of discipline; second, a man of love; thirdly, a man of purity.

① Discipline
Holding in check
his Tongue

Qualities of a growing doer!!

CONCLUSION: We come now to the end of our study #3 Growth is Produced by the Word and we have looked together at the words of James, especially in verse 21 "wherefore, having laid aside all moral uncleanness and wickedness, which is abounding, in meekness receive the implanted Word which is able to save your souls. It is only as we look into the mirror of the Word of God and see that which is needful for us to do that we will lay aside all moral uncleanness and wickedness and receive the instruction from the implanted Word. The one who is growing through the Word will be manifesting this by the three qualities in verses 26 and 27. He will be manifesting discipline, love, and purity in all of his relationships. It is my prayer that we might learn well the lesson that--to make progress towards Christian maturity, we must be those who are putting into practice that which we know. The man that will do this will be blessed in all that he does.

Growth Comes by

- ① Submitting to the Test
- ② Resisting the temptation
- ③ Implementing His Word

Ill. of George
in John 15:

Are you Growing?

- ① Can your wife see it?
- ② Kids see it?
- ③ Why aren't you?

Ill. of Doug Spencer

Neiman's Marcus
Nearly Died of Penicillin
Reaction.

Lesson #1 The Key to Growth is our response to the word.

Lesson #2 Discipline is A Manifestation of the Spirit's work in our lives + Forms the base For Victory

Lesson #3 Discipline, Love + Purity Are Qualities of A Growing Christian.

Lesson #4 The control of our words + emotions Also reveal the Growing relationship.

Lesson #5 it is easy to rationalize when we Need to repent...

deliberately to hinder the crowds from understanding our Lord's teaching. This I strongly deny to be so. The crowd that was not part of the "in" group could blame nobody but themselves.

In our Lord's words in verse 12 you will find a basic, fundamental principle of life. It is simply this: *what we do not use we lose*. Suppose your arm were fastened securely in a sling for a long period of time so that you did not use one muscle in that arm. You would discover that the arm would begin to atrophy and weaken. If you didn't use the arm you would lose the ability to use it.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus is speaking about how people hear the Word of God. He said, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (verse 9). Luke added the words, "Take heed therefore how ye hear" (Luke 8:18). The disciples had heard Christ's words and responded to them, therefore to them He would give more truth. The multitudes had heard His words and rejected them. They had eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand, but they refused to see, hear, and understand. The truth they refused is now lost to them. They lacked what the disciples possessed, namely, divine truth. Their ignorance was willful ignorance. They *did not* understand because they *would not* understand. Theirs was a deliberate rejection of the truth. They didn't have it because they didn't want it, therefore, "whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath" (Matthew 13:12).

In St. Paul's Cathedral in London there is a stained glass window depicting a man sowing seed. It was presented as a memorial to a man named Samuel A. Burnett. Mr. Burnett devoted his entire lifetime to spreading the Word of God in the wicked East End of London. Beneath the painting there is a plaque which reads, *Dedicated to Samuel A. Burnett, who served in East London for fifty years, and who feared not to sow despite the birds.*

I'll settle for an epitaph like that!

Joni Eareckson TADA



Introduction

31 Days Toward Intimacy
With God

Smoothed and flattened, the wrinkled sheet of wide-lined tablet paper lay in the center of my empty desk.

A crayoned sun in the upper right corner beamed five thick rays onto the happy faces of dancing flowers. A white house with two large windows and red shutters sat squarely in the middle. In front of the house,

sitting in a chair with large, spoked wheels, was a girl with blond hair, two pink circles on her cheeks, and a wide smile with neatly lined teeth.

I smiled. A portrait of me?

Big blockish letters scrawled with a red marker bore the following message:

DEAR JONI,

I LIKE MY CAT AND I LIKE SCHOOL.

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO HAVE A
WHEELCHAIR JUST LIKE YOURS.

LOVE,

SHANNON

My smile broke into laughter.

Shannon is a healthy, active little girl who plays hopscotch, four square, and "Mother, May I." She may not realize it now, but she has absolutely no use for a wheelchair.

Try telling that to Shannon! A wheelchair would top her birthday list, more coveted even than a purple bicycle with pink and white streamers on the handles. As far as

she's concerned, a wheelchair means *adventure*. A joyride. An initiation into a very special club.

Shannon hasn't a clue about the price one actually pays to join such a club. The pain. The paralysis. The disappointment. The heartache and the hurdles. She discounts all that. She disregards the dark side, considering it not worth even knowing. All she desires is the chance to identify with me, to be like me, to know me. If that means having a wheelchair, then great—she'll take it!

It takes a child like Shannon to illuminate the meaning behind Paul's words to the Philippians:

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 want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

3:8, 10

There's no better way to identify with Jesus—to be like Him and to know Him—than to gain initiation into

the fellowship of His sufferings. Or as Shannon might say, "the Club."

Suffering has a way of taking life out of the abstract, out of the theoretical, making it painfully concrete. Lofty sermons from eloquent Bible teachers don't bring release to people locked in suffering. Ph.D. programs in ivy-walled seminaries don't deliver hope and comfort to those in deep pain.

When we suffer, we realize we are not handling theological ideas, we are rather being handled by a Person—the warm and intimate Person of the Lord Jesus. At other times, when life is rosier, we may slide by with knowing *about* Him. With imitating Him and quoting Him and speaking of Him. But only in the fellowship of suffering will we *know* Jesus. We identify with Him at the point of His deepest humiliation. The cross, symbol of His greatest suffering, becomes our personal touchpoint with the Lord of the universe.

No one's asking you to beg membership in the Club as my little friend Shannon might. But there is something about her wonderful, wild abandon, her childlike trust, that must endear her to the Lord.

You don't have to choose suffering. You don't have to choose pain and humiliation. All you need do is choose God's will, as Jesus did on His cross. When you do, you'll be initiated into the Club—the fellowship of His suffering. And this is intimacy of the highest order.

Dear friend, since you've picked up this particular book and read this far, I think I know something about your heart. You have a longing to move toward a closer, deeper, more intimate walk with our God. That's what I want, too! More than anything. So why don't we agree to walk together for a while? Let's take a thirty-one-day journey toward the heart of heaven, and into the love of our Father and our Savior. Since we can never come to the end of His love, or truly understand the fellowship of His suffering, this little excursion represents only a few steps on the way.

Maybe so. But they will be steps in the right direction.