

*The Light - Junior Series*  
*Lesson 132*

*Practical Sanctification -*  
*If you Love Me, you will Keep My Commandments*



*John*



*Paul*



*James*

*2019*

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

*(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



## LESSON



In our past lessons, we have been learning from James what it means to be "pure in heart," the very opposite of being a hypocrite, which is saying one thing but being and doing the opposite of what you are saying. A hypocrite is a pretender, a phony, a whitewashed tomb, or two faced. A hypocrite wears a mask. We never want to be one.



If you remember, James had a lot to say about the things people SAY, the things people boast about, and complain about...like saying you have faith but having no works as fruit of that faith and like saying you love the Lord but your tongue speaks evil of others. Yes, hypocrites may even say they love the Lord...but only the pure in heart actually live their lives in keeping with what it **means** to love the Lord.



### What DOES it mean to love the Lord?

What does **God** say about it? Here's what He said to the Jews that HE rescued from slavery in Egypt. It means the same for Christians today as well. **Exo 20:1-6** "Then God spoke all these words, saying, (2) 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house

of slavery. (3) You shall have no other gods before Me. (4) You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. (5) You shall not worship

them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, putting the sinfulness of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, (6) **but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**"



In the New Testament God inspires John, Paul, and James to teach us in the following Bible passages about obeying the Lord, Jesus. We are going to really get into these letters so that the Holy Spirit can teach you these very important principles of Christianity, so that you can walk by them through the power of the Holy Spirit. There are a lot of them so you can **FILL your soul** with these important TRUTHS.

Let's start with Jesus' prayer for the Apostles in John 14:11-15. "Believe Me that I (Jesus) am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works (miracles He performed) themselves. (12) Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father (when He ascended into Heaven). (13) Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. (15) **If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**" **That's what it means to love the Lord!**

Jesus said,  
"Love one another."

John  
Chapter 15 verse 12



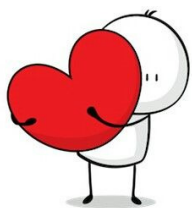
Let's continue in John 14:18-21. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (19) After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me (in His Resurrection body after He rose from the dead); because I live, you will live also. (20) In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. (21) **He who has My commandments and obeys them is the one who loves Me;** and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and **I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.**"



(15) **"If you keep My commandments, you will live in My love;** just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love. (11) These things I have spoken to you so that **My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.** (12) **This is My commandment, that YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, just as I have loved you.** (13) Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life (dies) for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you obey what I command you. (15) No longer do I call

you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. (16) You did not choose Me but I chose you, and selected you that you would go and bear fruit (serve Jesus), and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. (17) **This I command you, that YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER."**

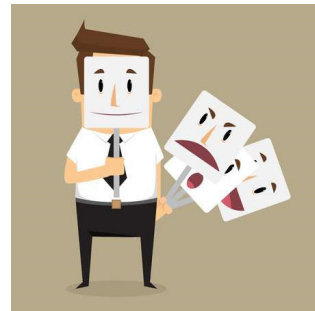
Here's John again in 1 John 5:1-4. "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and **whoever loves the Father loves the child (Jesus) born of Him.** (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God and obey His commandments.** (3) For **this is the love of God, that we obey His commandments; and His commandments are not** difficult. (4) For whatever is born of God overcomes the (devil's) world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith."



Thank God that for us, as Paul teaches in the next verses, the Holy Spirit has poured the love of God into our hearts through the Word of God. Time to use that love! Walk by means of the Holy Spirit, obeying Jesus, and serving Him.

Here's what Paul teaches us in Rom 5:1-5. "Therefore, having been justified (given God's perfect righteousness) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have gotten our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we rejoice in hope (confidence) of the glory of God. (3) And not only this, but we also rejoice in our troubles, knowing that troubles bring about persistence; (4) and persistence, proven character; and proven character, hope (confidence); (5) and hope (confidence) does not disappoint, **because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."**

So, becoming pure in heart is a big deal in the letter of James. Pure means 100% of something, NO hypocrisy, single-minded devotion to the Lord, with all your mind, heart, soul, and strength! This is loving the Lord...acting in keeping with what you say you believe, for the pure in heart and how they live matches what they say they believe. NO HYPOCRISY!!! NO MASKS!



Let's look at some more examples of this in James. James 1:5-8 "But if any of you lacks wisdom (Word of God), let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without scolding, and it will be given to him. (6) **But he must ask in faith without any doubting**, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, (8) being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Being double-minded is the opposite of being pure in heart or single-minded!



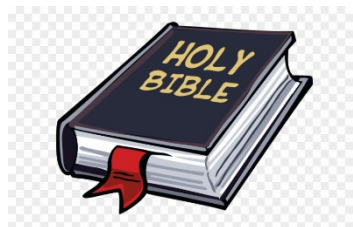
In review, here's more from James 1:22-27. "But prove yourselves doers of the word (serve the Lord) (practical sanctification), and not merely hearers who fool themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has

immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks really hard at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and lives by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but a successful doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." If you are pure in heart, when you hear the Word of God, you will do what it says...obey God. We are servants of Jesus, and we stand firm.

James also says in James 1:26-27. If anyone thinks himself to be religious (a good Christian), and yet does not control his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion (Christianity) is worthless. (27) Pure and undefiled religion (Christianity) in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." That last part means helping others with their needs. Also, in this verse: to be deceived is the opposite of being pure in heart. Notice the heart here. You deceive your own heart, so it is not a pure heart. Religion, which here means the practical living out of your Christianity...what you claim to believe. You may think you are living the Christian way of life, but James

says, if you cannot control your tongue then you are not practicing your Christianity and you are NOT going to get very far with that, now are you?

Remember back in **Colossians 3**? Remember what Paul taught us? The first step of the three steps is to put away the attitudes and behaviors of the old man...your sinful flesh. **Col 3:8-10** "But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander (insults), and rude speech from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self (sinful flesh) with its evil practices, (10) and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge (from the Word of God) according to the image of the One (Jesus) who created him."



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Paul, like James is showing us how very important it is to control our sinful flesh especially with the sins of our tongue. The old sinful flesh has a wicked TONGUE! Here are three problems of that wicked tongue...anger, wrath, and hatred. And here even more evil practices of the tongue... insults, rude speech, and lying.

Now the wonderful thing that God has done for us when

we believed in Jesus, is that He gave us the Holy Spirit to live inside our bodies to fight the sinful flesh. And the wonderful Holy Spirit who guides us by the Word of God in our souls also gives us the ability to control our sinful, wicked tongue!



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Now look at how Paul teaches us about this in Romans and Galatians: **Rom 8:12-13** "So then, brothers (and sisters in Jesus), we are required, not to live according to the (sinful) flesh, (13) for if you are living according to the (sinful) flesh, you must die; but if **by the Holy Spirit** you are putting to death the (sinful) deeds of the body, you will live (the way God wants us to live)." In other words, kids, you are required to obey God's commandments and the Holy Spirit helps you do this. Listen, to His teaching and guidance.

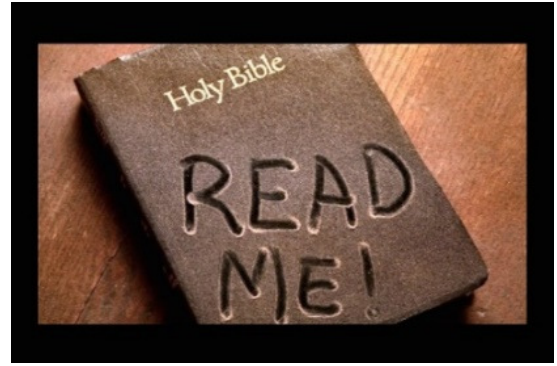
Paul teaches us here in Gal 5:16-24. "But I say, walk **by the (help of the Holy) Spirit**, and you will not do the things of the (sinful) flesh. (17) For the (sinful) flesh sets its wants against the Spirit, and **the Spirit against the flesh**; for these are against one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (18) But if you are **led by the (Holy) Spirit**, you are not under the Law (of sin). (19) Now the deeds of the flesh are clear, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, witchcraft, hatreds, fighting, jealousy, outbursts of anger, quarrels, disagreements, conflicts, (21) envying, drunkenness, sinful partying, and things like these, of which I warn you ahead of time, just as I have warned you before, that those who practice such things will not inherit (get rewards from God in ) the kingdom of God. (22) But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, **joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law (of sin). (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."



Jesus, James, and Paul are ALL in COMPLETE AGREEMENT about what the GOAL is: our becoming pure in heart, single-minded in our devotion to the Lord, and obeying His commandments because we no longer live for ourselves but we live for Him...loving the Lord with all our mind, heart, soul and strength and loving one another as Jesus has loved us.

Until next time, stay in God's Word...

Close in prayer.



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