

The Light - Junior Series

Lesson 140

Practical Sanctification:

Doers of the Word or Hearers Only

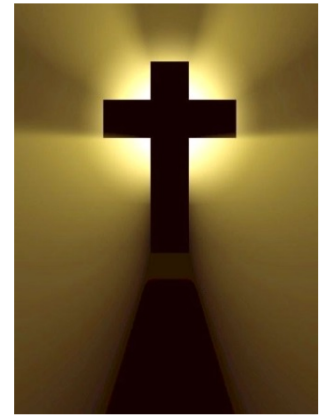
Obey God's Word



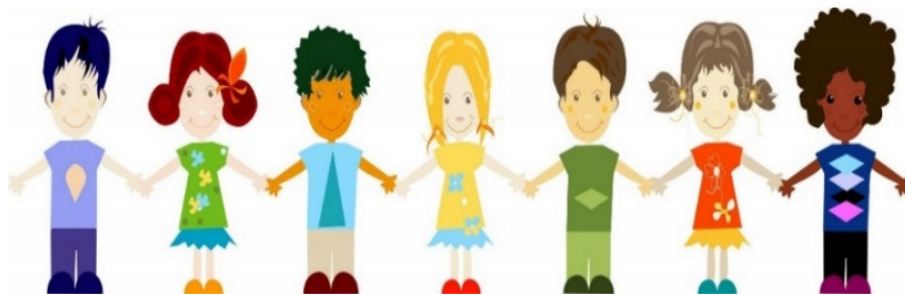
2020

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Jesus Christ, God's Son, loves us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to go to the cross, 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 from the dead and He is alive today seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. Believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ and you will be saved 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 us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON

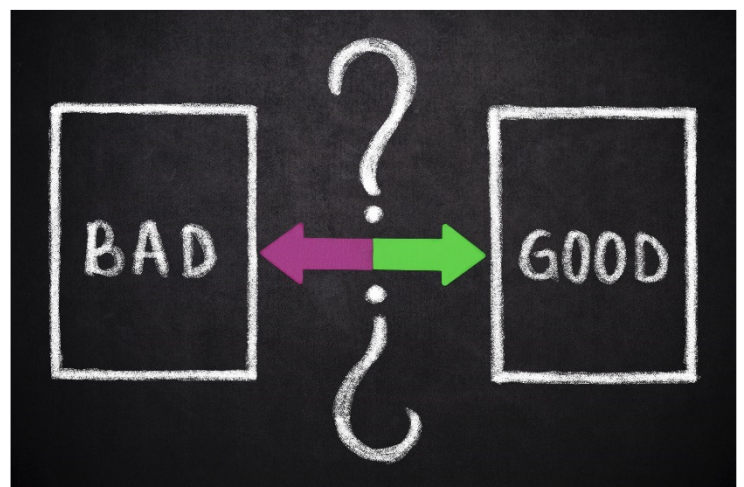


Hi Kids, let's head right back into the **James chapter 1** today especially in **verse 17**, where once again, James paints a



clear, unmistakable picture about the way things really are with God. **James 1:16-20 "Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. (17) Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow. (18) In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. (19) This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; (20) for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."**

We see in this passage in **James** the way things really are: **there is that which comes from above, from God, the Father of lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow and that is all good. But then there is that which comes from below, the world and the devil and that is all bad.**



Which do you choose to obey?



The problem is when trouble comes our way, and it will certainly come our way, we have to make choices when this happens. Are we going to obey what God tells us to do and trust Him for divine solutions or are we going to obey what comes from below...the devil...and his worldly solutions?

For example, if someone comes against you, and hurts you badly, will you be kind and forgive them? Or will you take revenge on that person and pay him or her back? If we believe the lies of the devil and go along with his worldly program for humans, we will take revenge.



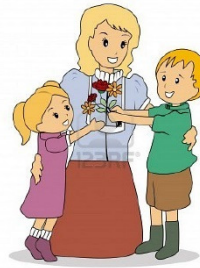
The world and the lies of the devil and his army of fallen angels (the Bible calls them principalities and powers of the air), can easily convince us to take revenge if we don't have enough of God's Word in our souls. With God's Word in our souls from daily study, we will be able to stop the fiery darts from the devil and his army of fallen angels with our shield of faith, part of the armor of God, and forgive and be kind to that person.

So, we have to keep repeating to ourselves: "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow."

James will repeat this at the end of chapter 3 as well. Let's look at James 3:13-18. "Who among you is wise and understanding? **Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom (from God's Word).** (14) But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart (like hatred and revenge), do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. (16) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. (17) But **the wisdom (from God's Word) from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unchanging, without hypocrisy (two-faced). (18) And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

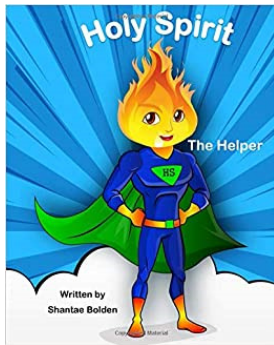


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James ALSO says something else, and **we better pay attention to it as well.** He says **you can know if you have the wisdom (from God's**

Word) from above by your behavior and deeds that show that wisdom from above! James says again in verse 13 **"Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom (from God's Word)."** This is because we can be so arrogant and we can so easily be deceived about this.



Our old man (flesh) always wants to rule us. That is why God our heavenly Father gave us God the Holy Spirit, who lives inside our bodies, to fight that flesh of ours. If the Spirit wasn't living inside of us, we would always choose what the devil wants us to do...worldly things, like the revenge we just talked about in this lesson.

Also, just about everybody in this world is convinced that they are basically very good, and in their arrogance, even think they are better being good than the next person. They will tell you all about it with their "being great and good stories." That is absolutely being deceived by **"that which comes from below!!!"** That's the devil's worldly program...bragging about being good.



And we can even start to believe the stories we make up, believe them to be true, and when we do, we are totally blind to what's really going on with ourselves. **Don't deceive yourself. Don't be arrogant and lie against the truth. Examine what's really in your heart.** God will let you see clearly when you **examine your behavior,** your

ways. Not your puffed-up opinion of yourself that you try to convince others about with your stories...but your actual behavior.

Unless you're really helping out those who don't have what we have and are in need and in very bad shape in any way, we remain deceived. That's why James keeps nagging us for saying one thing and doing something completely different. James isn't going to let us get away with anything less than what we are expected to do by God.



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You say you care about the poor but you don't give any help to the poor; you say you are a welcoming church but you pick and choose who you are going to pay special attention to...only those you like or think are cool. That other guy is dirty and rough looking. If he keeps coming people might start to wonder what the deal is with us. He's nothing but trouble.



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If you want to know what kind of person you are, pay some attention to what you say, and pay more attention to what you do. And watch what you say.



Remember: every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. Spend more time listening to the words from heaven and obeying what they say to do. Don't talk so much, because guaranteed you will start to slip into some things that will light that tongue of yours on fire.

If you have jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, it's going to come out. You'll say things and do things that a selfish, jealous person does. Stop and look again at [James 1:19-20](#). "But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; (20) for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."

James is very concerned about something. He is worried that the believers young and old in his congregation are going to be deceived or kid themselves. All believers without God's Word in their souls from daily study are very helpless and will be easy to deceive. They will believe the clever lie we discussed last week.



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And there's only one solution. There's only one way to stop kidding ourselves; stop deceiving ourselves; stop being so jealous and angry and selfish...not being doers of the Word, just hearers only.

The solution is the way of [James 1:21-22](#), and [Ephesians 4:22-24](#) and [Romans 6](#) and [Colossians 3](#):

1. Stop doing the bad. Put away the old man (the flesh). Put aside all filthiness, and all wickedness.
2. Receive the word implanted in your souls. Be humble. Be loving. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind by the teaching of the Holy Spirit when you study the Word.
3. Start doing the good. Be a doer of the word. Present the members of your body as living sacrifices and as instruments of righteousness to God. Put on the new man. Walk by means of the Spirit...let Him guide you. DOING...not simply hearing.

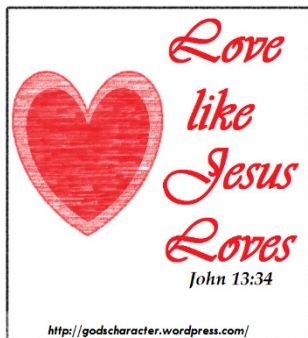
There are plenty of hearers who get done listening to or being taught by the Word of God and pretty soon forget what they heard. Please don't be like that, kids! Because the thing is, and this is your practical sanctification...this is the real thing...your everyday time with the Lord.



The fact is that if we do not put into practice what we hear from God's word, we will forget it and start to lie to ourselves and be deceived all over again. [Jam 3:13](#) "Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom."

Jam 1:21-25 "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to deliver your souls. (22) **But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just 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 carefully at the perfect law (God's Word), 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."

Do **not** obey the rules to the world, but **be changed by the renewing of your mind (study God's WORD)**, that you (by presenting your bodies a living sacrifice (to serve others in our service to Jesus) may **prove** what the will of God is, **that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

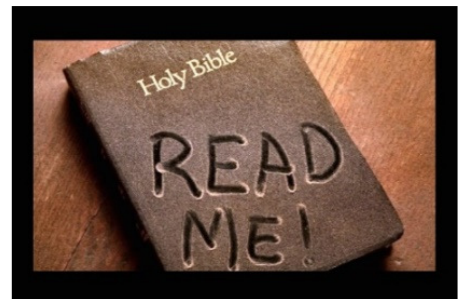


Don't let the old man or the flesh that sins run your life!! Put away the behaviors and attitudes of the old man, the flesh. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind by the Holy Spirit, who gives you understanding when you study God's Word every day. Obey what the Bible teaches you. To love and serve one another as Jesus loves and serves us.

Next time we will hear from Jesus on this same subject. And after that, a little more from Paul.

So, until next time, stay in God's Word...

Close in prayer.



Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 10-09-2016

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