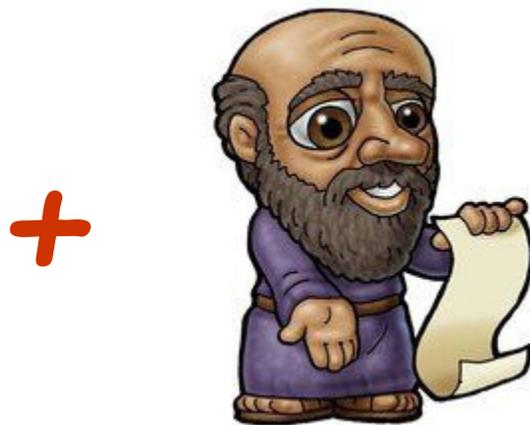
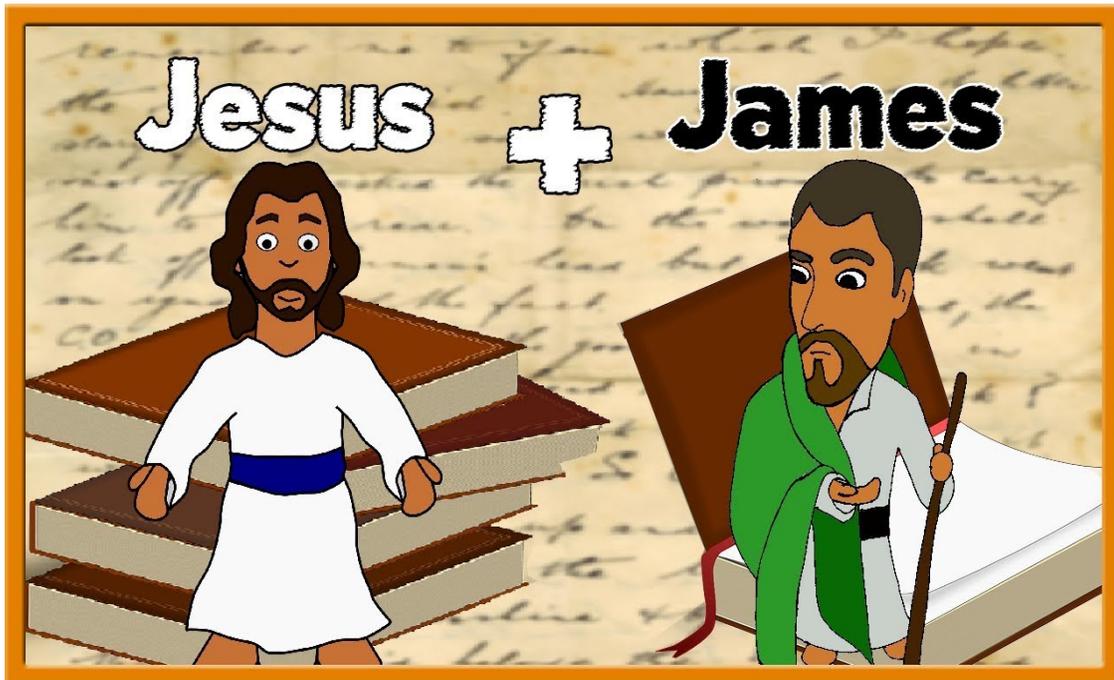


The Light - Junior Series  
Lesson 131

The Teamwork of Jesus, James & Paul  
In Practical Sanctification



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



Remember in our last lesson when we studied **James 4:8**, a key verse that said, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and

**purify your hearts, you double-minded."** This verse explains why James wrote this letter. He wants us to purify our hearts and get rid of the double-minded garbage but this means we need to become humble and count on the power of God the Holy Spirit to help us so this.

But of course, we can't do this without God's Word in our souls either. That's why Jesus said what He did when He said in **John 15:5**, "without Me you can do nothing". Remember, the Bible is the MIND OF CHRIST and we are **helpless** without it and the ruling power of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

For instance, **James 4:17**. "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin." This is clearly not being pure in heart. This is hypocrisy. Knowing the right thing to do but not doing it. But we can do it with help from the Spirit and James, Paul and Jesus' teaching.



Let's pretend we were back in the time of James and Paul when they were writing their books about Jesus. Let's say we heard this conversation between James and Paul. James is speaking to Paul:

“Paul, I told them what they need to do. But they won’t do it. These people are really bad, weak, and selfish. They are hopelessly addicted to their sins and desires to do bad. I’m done. See if you can do anything with them!”

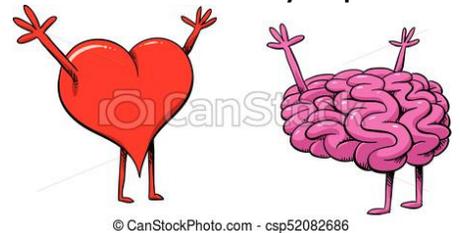
“Who me? James, I know what you mean because I myself have been just like them! The things I want to do, I didn’t do. The bad things that I didn’t want to do, I did.”

“Yeah, that’s what these stubborn so and so’s are doing.”

“James, here’s the deal. I am what I am by the grace of God. You too, James, actually. It’s Jesus or nothing, James! The only hope here for us is the ruling power of the Holy Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, James!”

Kids, are you seeing the point? We cannot do this on our own. We need powerful help! God supplies that help to us in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

So, Paul comes on the scene after James and what Paul does is, he teaches us about this new life that we can live for Jesus because of the Holy Spirit living in us...in our hearts (minds).



Remember in **Colossians 3** when Paul tells us about changes of heart. It tells us that the Christian life is all about the heart. That’s what James says too.

Remember, Paul in **Colossians 3** gives us the basic three-steps of daily practical Christianity:

1. Put away the old bad attitudes and behaviors.
2. Renew your minds by studying God’s Word EVERYDAY, having the word richly live within your soul.
3. Put on the new, good new heart attitudes & behaviors.

And James teaches that, too, in **James 1:21-22** “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the Word rooted, which is able to deliver your souls. (22) But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” It’s

a matter of every minute, everyday changes of the heart (mind) so that our life is honoring to the Lord with what we say we believe. Pure in heart.



Paul says it. James says it, too, and that's what Jesus says. That's three. With Jesus giving us the great vision statement: "**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**" You will understand what God wants from you. And so, you have this teamwork between Jesus, James, and Paul on the matter of the heart (mind).

Since that teamwork went so well, maybe it's true about OTHER things that James brings up in his letter? Let's go further with it, okay? It's a fun way to learn what Jesus, James and Paul want us to learn, right? Hope you are enjoying learning from it. The study of this question can be very rewarding. So, let's keep going...



Have James bring up a subject, and then turn to Jesus and Paul to have a full "discussion" of that subject. Almost like we were invited to the most amazing Bible class where the speakers are Jesus, James, and Paul!!!



There's no doubt that we will see this incredible teamwork between the three but let's get something straight right up front: generally speaking it will be Jesus who will set the vision, James who will describe how it looks on an everyday level, and Paul who will teach how it works for the Christian who is in union with Jesus, with the Spirit living in our hearts (minds).

Let's begin in James 1:1-9. "James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve (Jewish) tribes who are scattered abroad (in many other countries): Greetings. (2) Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you face various troubles, (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. (4) And let patience have its perfect result, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) But if any of you lacks wisdom (from God's Word), let him ask of God (for Wisdom), **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. (9) But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position (God LOVES HUMILITY)."



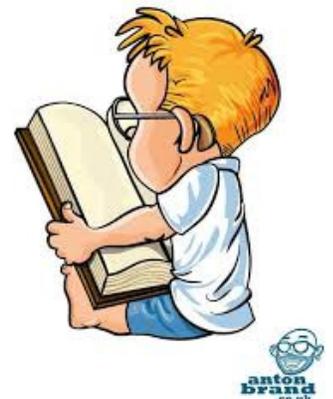
Let's look at James. Who is he? Not only is he a slave or bond-servant of God, but he is the half-brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wow! He became the leader of the early Christian church in Jerusalem. He is not the Apostle James who was the brother of John.

After the religious Jews martyred Stephen, a wonderful Christian who loved the Lord and served Him faithfully, the Jewish Christians in Judea left the area and were scattered all over the world. They were frightened because of this awful murder. You can read about it in **Acts 6:8 through Acts 7:60**. It is such a powerful story so, please read it.



Now James is writing to these scattered Jewish believers in Christ who have fallen on hard times. They are strangers and aliens now in foreign lands, having been forced to leave their homes in Judea. But let's look again at what James teaches them through the Holy Spirit in **James 1:2-9**. "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various troubles, (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience**. (4) And let patience have its perfect result, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) But if any of you lacks **wisdom (from God's Word)**, 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. (9) But the brother of humble circumstances is to **glory in his high position (God LOVES HUMILITY)**." He's teaching them to be patient and endure under trouble and pressure. He's not teaching them something they cannot do with God's help. God supplies EVERYTHING they or we will need in times of trouble.

Before we end this lesson, let's look at the subject of patience or endurance that James brings up right away in **verse 3**. Now we are going to go with the Greek word here and it is *hupomone*. It means to hang in there under pressure, maybe for a long time.





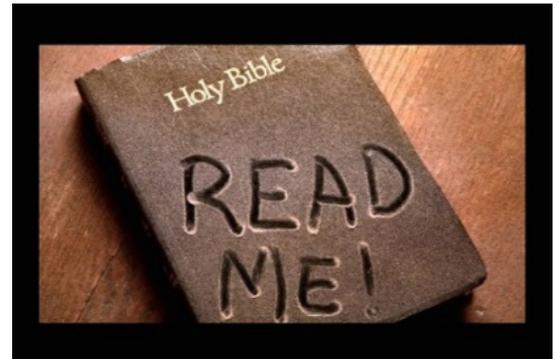
For example, think of the soldiers in World War One who fought in the trenches. They hardly made any progress at all. They stayed in their bunkers and hunkered down and took the artillery fire and held their ground. They *hupomoned*. They were patient and they endured.

Look kids, just like the scattered Jewish believers James is teaching and Stephen the first Christian martyr, each of us in our lives has or will have a trench. The Lord asks us to stay put in that trench. To endure whatever attacks we may get, even when we are so weak, we can hardly stand. Please, read about Stephen and you will see this. **Jesus wants us to be humble, to obey Him, and to learn to depend on Him to take care of us in the trenches or troubles of life.**

We'll study more about Jesus, James and Paul in our next few lessons.

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

Close in prayer.



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