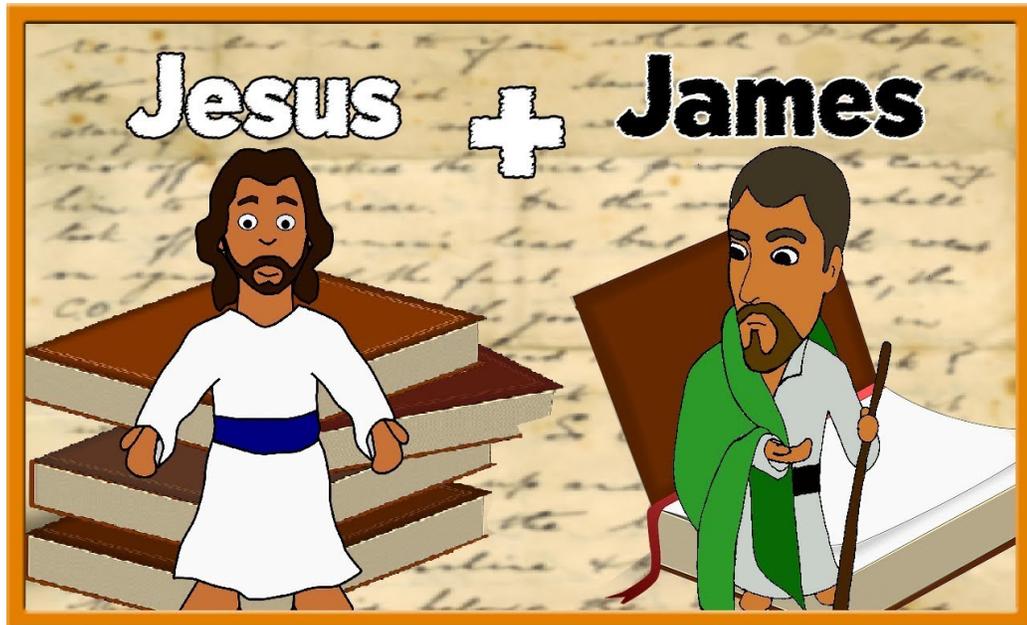


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 136

Practical Sanctification:
Learn again from Jesus, James & Paul



Paul

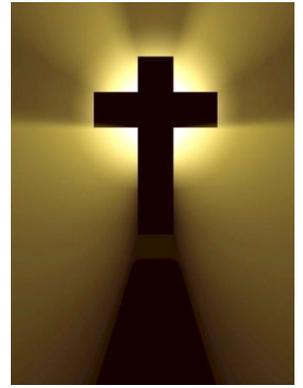


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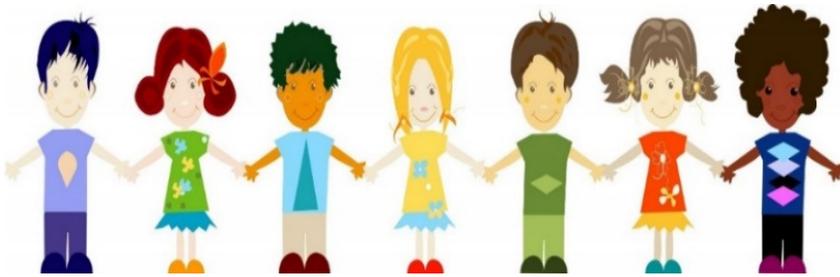
BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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, and Happy New Year. In this New Year, we are continuing our lesson in our series on practical Christianity with Jesus, James and Paul again.

First, we're going to learn some lessons on James in the following way: have James bring up a subject, and then turn to Jesus and Paul to have a full "discussion" as it were of that subject. It will be almost like we were invited to the most amazing Bible conference where the speakers are Jesus, James, and Paul. Or a school where the teachers are Jesus, Paul, and James.

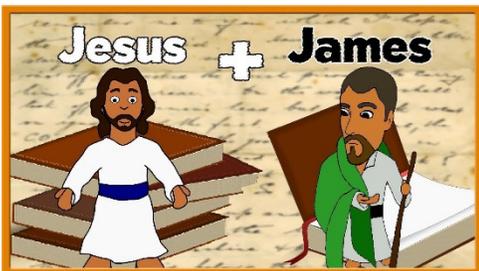


We'll continue to see this amazing teamwork between the three and not to jump the gun, but generally speaking it will be Jesus who sets the vision or idea, James who will describe how it looks practically on a daily basis, and Paul who will teach how the Lord and the Spirit get it done for us...the Christian in union with Christ, with the Spirit dwelling in our hearts.

Jesus focuses on the purpose or aim, Paul teaches the plan, and James works on the ways we achieve it.

This will involve a huge amount of Bible verses. We will be learning from the greatest BOOK ever written, just to remind you all. What better way is there to spend time learning?

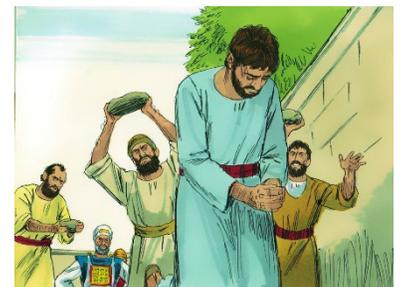
So, let's begin with God's Word in James: James 1:1-12 "James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes (of Israel) who are scattered abroad: Greetings. (2) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various sufferings (from trouble, persecution, or torture), (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**. (4) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) But if any of you lacks wisdom (from the Bible, God's Word), let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without criticism, 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; (10) and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away (his fun will die out quickly). (11) For the sun rises with a scorching wind and wilts the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too, the rich man in the middle of his hunts (for fun and pleasure) will fade away. (12) Blessed is a man who persists under suffering; for once he has been approved (by God), he will receive the crown of life (reward) which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."



Now remember that James is the half-brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. He became the leader of the early Christian assembly in Jerusalem. He is NOT the Apostle James of the twelve Apostles, not the Apostle John's brother but he is the half-brother of the Lord, Jesus.

He's writing to the twelve tribes of Israel (all Jews) who are scattered everywhere from Jerusalem and Israel.

The reason they are scattered everywhere is because of the murder of deacon, Stephen, which was the beginning of the persecution and torture of the Jewish Christians in Israel especially in Judea. They were all running scared and hiding from the center of all the persecution.



So, James is writing to Jewish believers in Christ who have fallen on hard times. They are strangers and aliens now, having been forced to leave their homeland in Israel because of the cruelty from the unbelieving Jewish leaders.

We will have suffering in our lives. This is a fact so hang in there under pressure of suffering and it may be short suffering or even for a long time.



Think of it like the soldiers in World War I who fought hard in the ditches they dug during this war. They hardly made any progress at all. They stayed in their bunkers and crouched down and took the artillery fire and held their ground. They endured and so, as they did, each of us may have a ditch or trench of suffering from time to time in our short lives.

It is our teacher, Jesus who tells us about the trenches of suffering and comforts us as well. Maybe our trench is a physical or medical problem, or even a mental illness. No matter what our suffering may be, Jesus is with us through it. [Matt 4:23-24](#) "Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and announcing the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. (24) The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them."

Hey listen, kids, let's face it, there may not be a **miracle healing** for you here on earth today, only that you see the heart of love and compassion that our Lord has for you in your own situation.

God heals today but not through visual miracles like He did through Jesus in the time when Jesus came to earth to save us. Those visual miracles were performed to fulfill all the prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus because it was a sign to the Jews that their Messiah (Savior) was here on earth.

[Matt 14:14](#) "When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick."

Did you know that most of the Jews, especially the priests, pharisees, scribes, and leaders REJECTED Jesus when He was here? This is very sad.

Now you may be experiencing a problem where one of your parents or siblings have some sickness or long-lasting illness. Here's two examples in



Luke and Mark. Luke 9:37-43 "The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. (38) And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only boy, (39) and a demon seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, attacking him as it leaves. (40) I begged your disciples to cast it out, and they could not.' (41) And Jesus answered and said, 'You unbelieving and corrupt generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.' (42) While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him (the boy) to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus scolded the unclean spirit, and **healed the boy and gave him back to his father.** (43) And they were all **amazed at the greatness of God.**"



Next, we turn to Mark's version of the same incident to hear more from our Lord. Mark 9:19-29 "And He answered them and said, 'Oh unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!' (20) They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the demon threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. (21) And He asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. (22) It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if you can

do anything, take pity on us and help us!' (23) And Jesus said to him, 'If You can? **All things are possible to him who believes.**' (24)

Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, 'I do believe; help my unbelief.' (25) When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He scolded the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.'

(26) After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so pale that most of them said, 'He is dead!' (27) But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up. (28) When He came into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, 'Why could we not drive it out?' (29) And He said to them, '**This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.**'

Please, please do not get frightened about what happened to the boy in these passages. These possessions by demons or unclean spirits were frequent in Jesus' time because God wanted to prove to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. Part of all the prophecies were demon possession but at the time of Jesus' living on earth. Today, this is a VERY RARE thing and

mostly in countries that have very few believers and where idol worship is very much alive and thriving. So, NO WORRIES, okay?



Now, kids, realize this about the Lord's desire for you or your loved ones who may be suffering in [2 Peter 3:9](#). "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (a change of mind about Jesus)."

Or maybe you mourn and have grief over a special person you loved who died and you no longer have with you. Look at [Matt 5:4](#).

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."



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Maybe you are very upset by the lack of goodness or justice in our country today when you see how things are from the news you may here every day. Look at [Matt 5:6](#). "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (goodness), for they shall be satisfied."

Or maybe it is mistreatment of some kind for the sake of doing what's right. Look at [Matt 5:10](#). "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness (good behavior), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."



Maybe you are the target of slander or gossip or insults. Maybe you are bullied because of your faith. Look at [Matt 5:11-12](#). "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me (Jesus). (12) Be happy and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; in the same way as you, they persecuted the prophets

who were before you."



Maybe you are in a troublesome family, or a family marked by fighting, alcoholism or drug abuse, or physical abuse. Maybe you have a learning disability. Maybe you are poor, or your family has a difficult time earning enough money to support it. Look at [Luke 6:20](#). "And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He began to say, 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.'"

Maybe you have an unreasonable teacher or coach. Maybe you have had to endure losses of the kind because of your love for the Lord. Jesus speaks of here in [Mark 10:29-31](#). "Jesus said, 'Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, (30) but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. (31) But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.'"



Next, let's go into the Apostle, Paul's classroom and listen to Paul speak of his experience with the trenches of life's sufferings. First in [Rom 8:33-39](#). "Who will bring a charge against God's elect (believers)? God is the one who justifies; (34) who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised (from the dead), who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes (prays) for us. (35) Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will troubles, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) Just as it is written, 'FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.' (37) But in all these things we awesomely conquer through Him who loved us. (38) **For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"

And again in [2 Cor 12:7-10](#). "Because of the superior greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from praising myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from praising myself! (8) Concerning this I begged the Lord three times that it might leave me. (9) And He has said to me, 'My grace is

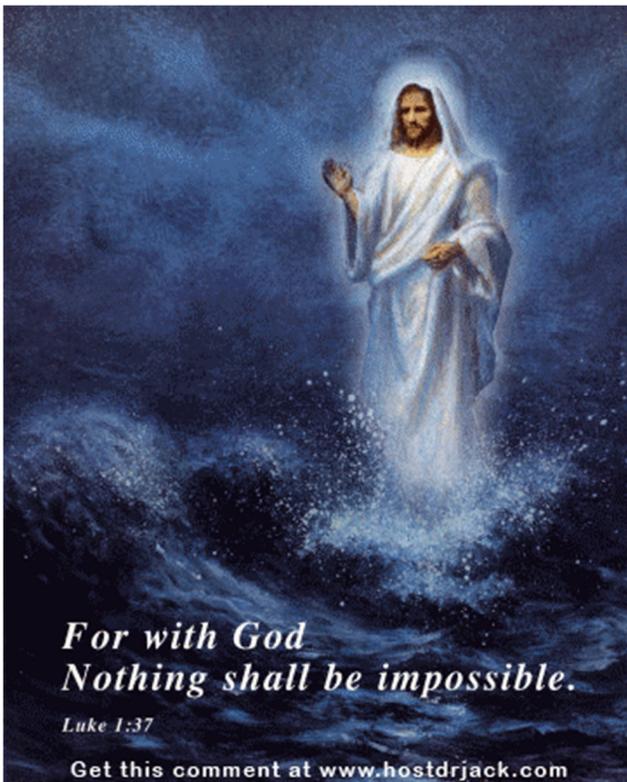
enough for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. (10) Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." These are the trenches, the things that call for endurance or strength.



So, each of us finds ourselves in a unique trench of suffering at times in our lives. The Lord asks us to remain in that trench, to endure the attacks even when we are so weak, we can hardly stand up. He wants us to LEARN to DEPEND ON HIM to take care of us in the trenches of life. This is FAITH, kids. Heb 11:6 "And without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, for him who comes to God must BELIEVE that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

Look at 2 Cor 1:3-11. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, (4) who comforts us in all our suffering so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any suffering with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (5) For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. (6) But if we are suffering, it is for your comfort and deliverance; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; (7) and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. (8) For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of our suffering which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened extremely, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; (9) indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, **but in God who raises the dead; (10) who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He (Jesus) on whom we have set our hope.** And He will yet deliver us, (11) you also joining in helping us through

your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor given to us through the prayers of many.”



Jesus puts it this way in Luke 9:23. “And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.’” When we are suffering or in any kind of trouble in the trenches of life, if we concentrate or rely on ourselves, we won’t be able to endure or last. We need to learn to accept the situation and **keep our eyes on Jesus!!**

The writer of Hebrews deals with this and then tells us that Jesus had to **endure** the cross. Heb 12:1-13 “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses (Old Testament believers) surrounding us, let us also lay aside every burden and the sin which so easily traps us, and

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy (we believers) set before Him **endured the cross**, hating the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider Him (Jesus) who has endured such hatred by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow tired and lose heart. (4) You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your struggling against sin; (5) and you have forgotten the advice which is addressed to you as sons, ‘MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE SCOLDED BY HIM; (6) FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE PUNISHES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.’ (7) It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (8) But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to (God) the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. (11) All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it gives you the peaceful fruit of righteousness. (12) Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, (13) and make

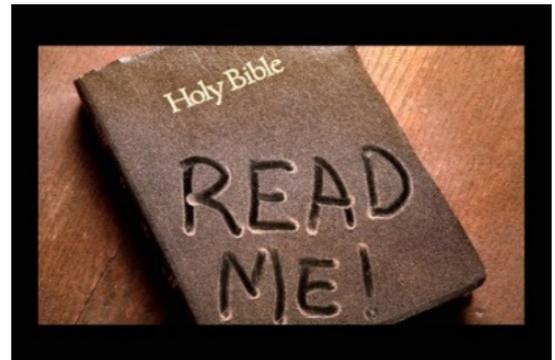
straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed." In other word, kids, we learn to be good or do things the way God wants us to do them when we are regularly disciplined. It keeps us in line lovingly.

Some of the most wonderful promises are given to us in the suffering trenches of life.

So, let's close today's lesson with a repeat of James 1:2-4. "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various sufferings, (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (4) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:12 "Blessed is a man who perseveres under suffering; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." You are LOVED!

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

Close in prayer.



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