

The Light - Junior Series

Lesson 139

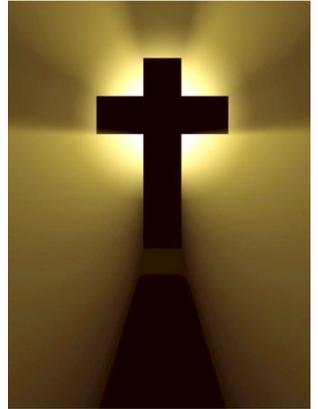
Practical Sanctification: Be Humble & Serve Others



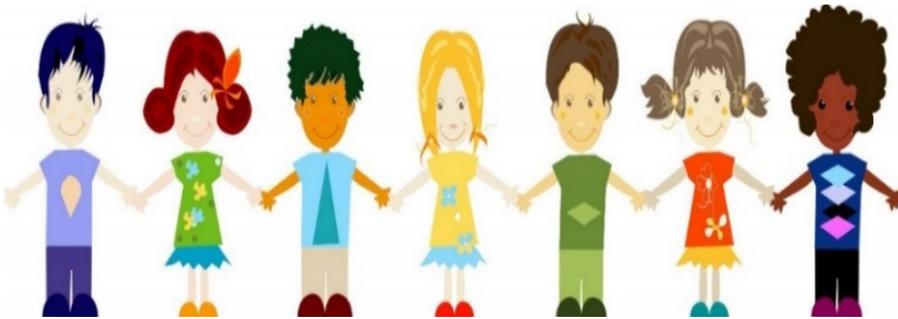
2020

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 His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON



Hi Kids, today we're going to look at [Romans 12](#) for a bit, together with the letter of [James](#) to strengthen our ability to **serve others** as part of our practical sanctification.

Remember, when we were saved by Jesus, we entered a new life and we were given eternal life. [Luke 12:48b](#) "...From everyone who has been given much (salvation, eternal life, and all blessings from Jesus), much will be demanded (from believers); and to whom they assigned much, of him (believer) they will ask all the more."

[Romans 12:1-2](#) is all about obeying God by serving others. "Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God**, which is your **spiritual service of worship**. (2) And do not be conformed to (obey) this world, but be changed by the renewing of your mind (learning God's Holy Word so you can obey Him), so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

First, let's start by taking a look at the tongue...that little muscle in our mouths that sometimes gets us in a lot of trouble. We have to learn what that tongue of ours can do and that it may cause us problems obeying God.



Let's begin in [Rom 12:14-15](#). Look at what it says about our tongues and then we'll look at what [James](#) has to say about it. "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (15) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

[James 3:5-12](#) "So also, the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! (6) And the tongue is a fire, the very world of sin; the tongue is set among our body parts as that which pollutes the entire body, and sets on fire the path of our life, and is set on fire by hell. (7) For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. (8) **But no one can tame the tongue;** it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. (9) **With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;** (10) from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. (11) Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? (12) Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can



CONSIDER WHAT A GREAT FOREST IS SET ON FIRE BY A SMALL SPARK.

JAMES 3:5B-6A
NIV



THE TONGUE ALSO IS A FIRE, A WORLD OF EVIL AMONG THE PARTS OF THE BODY.



salt water produce fresh." Wow, you can see from these verses that [James](#) doesn't fool around when he talks about the tongue and the trouble it can cause. He doesn't want you to get into this kind of trouble. The tongue can cause VERY serious problems. So, [James](#) is warning us to not use our tongues to hurt others. Instead we

should be helping others not talking badly about them or hurting them. This includes spreading lies about others or telling others about something someone did that was bad...gossip.

We must always be humble as Christians. This is what God wants from us. Never say bad things about others or judge them with the tongue. [James](#) tells us this in [James 4:11-12](#). "**Do not speak against one another,** brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother,

speaks against the law (of God) and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*. (12) There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One (Jesus) who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?"



Rom 12:16 "Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be stuck-up in mind, but associate with the lowly." Here again we have the call from God to be humble not judging and to be kind to all.

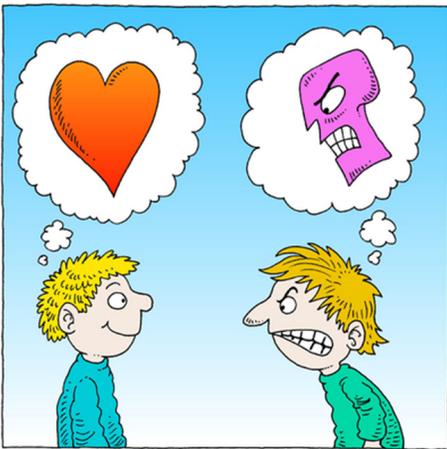
Again, Romans tells us the same thing along with James 4:6-10. "But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, 'GOD IS AGAINST THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.'" (7) Submit therefore, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw

near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded (two-faced). (9) Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will praise you."

And we saw that we have the request from God to associate with the lowly in Rom 12:16 above. This is the same as James 1:26-2:9 with the widows, orphans, and the poor. A call by God to treat everyone with loving kindness. "If anyone thinks himself to be religious (obeying God), and yet does not control his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. (27) Pure and unsoiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress (anyone that is hurting badly), *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world (world views that are against God's thinking). (James 2:1) My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. (2) For if a man comes into your assembly (local church) with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, (3) and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, 'You sit here in a



good place,' and you say to the poor man, 'You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,' (4) have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? (5) Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (not many mighty are called by God) (6) But you have dishonored the poor man. Isn't it the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? (7) Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? (8) If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,' you are doing well. (9) But if you show favoritism, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the law as sinners."



Again, God presses us to be humble and be kind and at peace with all. Rom 12:16b-20 "Do not be wise in your own estimation. (17) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men.** (19) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,' says the Lord. (20) 'BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED

HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR WHEN YOU DO THIS, YOU WILL PILE BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.' In other words, you will make your enemy see he is wrong when you are nice to him instead of being mean and paying him back!!!

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.** (14) But if you have **bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart,** 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 above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, **without hypocrisy**. (18) And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by **those who make peace.**"

And then finally in Rom 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

So, walk in a manner worthy of who God has made us to be...as Christians...like Jesus.

James has a powerful message for us, and it is seen all through **James chapter 1**. Let's see what that is all about. It looks like James is very concerned about something. He is worried that his church congregation might be kidding themselves. They are very helpless and may be taken in by a very clever lie.



Here is James, and we will hear what he has to say in the rest of the chapter. **James 1:16-27** "**Do not be fooled**, 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 accomplish the righteousness of God**. (21) Therefore, put aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the Word implanted (in your souls), which is able to deliver your souls. (22) But **prove yourselves doers of the word (live it in your**

daily life), and not merely hearers (only) who fool themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word (only) and not a doer (do what the Word tells us to do), 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

intently at the perfect law (of God), the law of liberty (freedom), and lives by it, not having become a **forgetful** hearer but a successful doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. (26) If anyone thinks himself to be religious (obeys God), and yet does not control his tongue but **fools his own heart**, this man's religion is worthless. (27) Pure and unstained religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress (all people who are suffering and need help), and to keep oneself unstained by the world (not God's thinking)."



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Did you see what James is saying about being fooled with the clever lie? James explains three different times how he is worried that his church congregation will deceive themselves or be fooled. In **verses 16, 22, and 26**, James shows us the clever lie and keeps the spotlight on it so we can't avoid it.

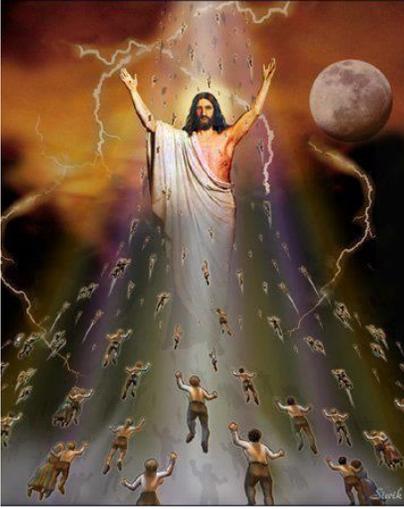
Here it is. It is crystal clear in verse 22: **"But prove yourselves doers of the word (live it in your daily life), and not just hearers (only) who fool themselves."**

Hearing the word of God is a good thing. A VERY necessary thing. James spends most of verses **18-21** praising the qualities of hearing the Word of God. But the clever lie is that we only have to concern ourselves with hearing the word of God. That is the clever lie. We cannot only hear it, we need to study it, learn it, and we **MUST LIVE WHAT WE LEARNED...APPLY IT** to our everyday lives. This is your practical sanctification.



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Listen, kids, this **NEVER** happens automatically without our effort or concentration or choice to do so. We **MUST** choose to live it and apply it to our everyday lives. Listen to the Holy Spirit. He will help us do this but we have to want to do this.



Paul, also points out that there is a call for us to concentrate and obey the Word of God in [Titus 2:11-15](#). “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, (12) instructing us to reject ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope (Rapture) and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, (14) who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every sin, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds (serving others). (15) These things speak and encourage and warn us with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”



And again, Paul stresses how important this is in [Titus 3:4-8](#). “But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, (5) He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration (being born again when we believed in Jesus) and renewing by the Holy Spirit, (6) whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) so that being justified (made perfect) by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (8) This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so

that those who have believed God will be careful to take part in good deeds (serving others). These things are good and profitable for men.”

And again, in [Eph 5:15-16](#), “Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, (16) making the most of your time (by **servicing others**, living God’s Word), because the days are evil.”

You see, Paul is just as concerned as James is about the danger of believing the clever lie that grace means it doesn’t matter what we do. **BUT IT DOES!!**





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So, what does it mean to be just hearers of the word (without doing what it says) who fool themselves? It means they believed the clever lie that says "God will take care of all of our needs through His grace so we don't need to help others because God is doing it." Listen, of course, God takes care of believers but He uses other believers to do that! God helps others through us!!! He uses prepared Bible studying believers to serve others in need. He

graces us out so we in turn must help others. God uses people in our lives to grace us out, too. Grace belongs to God but He expects us to use that grace when things are going very well for us to help others...and VISE VERSA! They will help you when you are in need.

Here is a real practical test you can take to see if you are a doer of the Word and not just a hearer: when we had the threat of becoming ill from this corona virus, what were all the actions you and your family took to protect yourselves...and what actions did you and your family take to reach out to others and help them with their needs too?



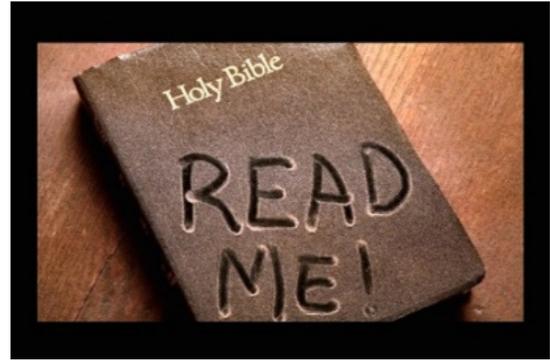
You can think of it this way: we hear the Word of God telling us how important it is to discipline our tongues to be kind to everyone, but we continue to use it to hurt others by gossiping, insulting, judging, ridiculing, and maybe even bullying others.



We hear the Word of God tell us to put away wickedness but we still tell lies and disobey our parents...we still do bad things!

We are only kidding **ourselves**. Don't believe the clever lie...don't be hearers of the Word of God only, **BE DOERS OF THE WORD...SERVE OTHERS. Be humble in all your ways.**

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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