

James 1:19-21

Embedded: The Instilled Word Alone Saves the Soul

Introduction: Review

1. God teaches us how to respond to Trials – with Joy
2. God teaches us how to respond to Temptation – with Correct thoughts about God and Ourselves
3. God Now teaches us how to respond to God's Truth
4. God directs our view away from ourselves and our circumstances and directs our gaze toward God & Word

Main Point: Christians must respond to temptation & trials with the proper attitude characterized by repentance & humble reception of God's Word, which produces righteousness, sanctifying the soul by God & for God.

The Christian's Response To Trials And Temptations (v 19)

1. The Urgency & Affection of James' Tone: *Know this... Beloved brothers*
 - a. Good pastors feel urgent responsibility and deep affection for God's flock
2. Hurry Up and Listen to the Lord! Be Quiet...
 - a. We all need to hear this: *Let every person...*
 - b. We usually have our minds made up when we talk to people, assuming what they will say (**Prv 18:13**)
 - c. What we listen to reveals the condition of the heart (**Prv 10:8, 12:15, 17:4**)
 - d. It matters how we listen to each other and to God
 - e. Fallen humanity closes their ears to God; Christians have a pull toward closing our ears to God
 - f. Listening is a Ministry to others
3. Be Slow to Speak – developed by active listening
 - a. Listen and then you will have appropriate, biblical responses
 - b. When this command is ignored, there is untold damage to relationships and the Gospel
4. Be slow to Anger – a self-controlled anger (Ex: Jesus)

The Common Repercussions Of Ungodly Anger (v 20)

1. In the trial God ordains, you will be attempted to be angry at God and others
 - a. Misplaced anger is sin and never produces the fruit of a righteous character

- b. Can you remember a time where you helped someone who you were angry with or *visa versa*?
- c. Sinful Anger → Death (Relationships, Church, etc)

The Consecrating Result Of The Word Of God (v 21)

1. Be quick to Hear God's Voice
2. First, Sin is Filthy and Wicked and must be repented of
 - a. Wages of Sin is death, Sin brings forth death (**v 15**)
 - b. It is loving to call people to repent of Sin because you do not want them to perish
 - c. Get rid of Inward Immoral Filth = keeps you from hearing God's Word; Fight It! (**Rom 7:15-20**)
 - d. Put away Outward Rampant Wickedness = behaviors and speech
 - e. The Born Again Believer is able to Mortify Sin by the Power of the Spirit within
 - f. Put away what you have already been cleansed from by Jesus' death on the Cross
3. Second, Replace Sin with The Implanted Word
 - a. Reject Sin, Receive the Truth of God's Word
 - b. Receive it with Meekness (**1 Thess 2:13**)
 1. Humility, Submissiveness, Teachability, Trust
 2. NOT arrogance, suspicion, & lack of submission
 3. God's Word doesn't sit under the authority of your intellect, but stands over us
 - c. Receive what you already have Implanted Within
 1. The Word of Truth caused your new birth (**v 18**)
 2. The Word of Truth was planted within you at your New Birth = New Covenant Promises! See (**Jer 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:24-27**)
 3. The Word is Accompanied by the Holy Spirit
 - i. The actions of the Word and Spirit are similar (**James 1:18 and John 6:63**)
 - ii. Both abide within, indwell the Believer (**John 2:14, John 15:5-8**)
 4. *Receiving what you have implanted is like receiving Oxygen to live* (John Piper)
 - d. The Implanted Word Sanctifies the Soul (Salvation)
 1. You will never outgrow the Gospel of Jesus
 2. Daily Transformation occurs with how much attention we give to the Word of God
 3. Your sanctification depends on God's Work through His Word