



# FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26



*Faith and Principles*  
James 1:19-25

# Review

- Our circumstances help to expose who we really are and what we really believe, which affords opportunities for growth

# Review

- Trials highlight any conflict between our desires and God's
- We fail the tests when we obey our desires instead of God's

# Review

- Though they may not be pleasant, trials should be received with joy because of what they can accomplish
- Maturity is adopting God's desires and living them out

# James 1:19-25

Test #1: How do you respond to the Word of God?

1. Out With the Old (19-21)
2. In With the New (22-27)

# Out With the Old

- This you know, my beloved brethren
  - That God brought you forth by the word of truth (18; Rom. 10:17)
- But...
  - Knowledge must be applied

# Everyone must be...

- *Quick to hear*: attentive, eager to learn, ready to receive knowledge
- *Slow to speak*: Use restraint; ponder what is said; respond, don't react
  - 1 Cor. 14:26-40



# Everyone must be...

- *Slow to anger*: tempered zeal; self-control; gentleness
  - Anger – *orge* – *wrath*: *persistent hostility; vengeance*; deliberate (not passionate outburst)

# Everyone must be...

- *Slow to anger*

- God: Ex. 34:6; Num. 14:18; Ps. 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; et. al.

- Man: Prov. 14:29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11

# Out With the Old

- for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God
  - No matter how zealous you are, your hostility will not accomplish any good in anyone

# Out With the Old

- the righteousness of God?
  - Not: *being right with God; justified*
  - The right conduct that God expects
  - Angry shouting is inconsistent with Godly character

# Out With the Old

- This is a test!
  - How do you respond when you hear teaching you don't like or agree with?

# Out With the Old

- If you find something wrong in your response, deal with it! Put Off:
  - All Filthiness: *dirt* -moral impurity
  - All Wickedness: vice or malice
  - 1 Pet. 2:1-3; Eph. 4:22-24

# In With the New

- [Put On:] in humility receive the word implanted
  - Be the good soil – Luke 8:4-21
    - Hear and persevere (15)
    - Use it or lose it (18)

# In With the New

- [Put On:] in humility receive the word implanted
  - Humility – *prautes* – meekness; teachableness; submission; calmness toward God



## Spiros Zodhiates - *prautes*

- “It is the acceptance of God’s dealings with us considering them as good in that they enhance the closeness of our relationship with Him.” (see Matt. 5:5)

# Spiros Zodhiates - *prautes*

- It also “encompasses expressing wrath toward the sin of man...”
  - But anger doesn’t achieve God’s righteousness!
  - Be *slow* to anger (proper balance)

# Spiros Zodhiates - *prautes*

- It “is getting angry at the right time, in the right measure, and for the right reason.”  
–Mark 3:1-6

# In With the New

- which is able to save your souls
  - But aren't they already saved? (18)
  - Sin brings death (15; 5:19-20)
  - Obedience brings sanctification / righteousness (Rom. 6)

# In With the New

- But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers
  - All four soils hear (Luke 8:11-14)
  - One soil (the honest and good heart) *hears* and *does* (8:15, 21)

# In With the New

- hearers who delude themselves
  - *To reason falsely or incorrectly*
  - If you think you don't have to act on what you hear you aren't thinking clearly

# The Deluded Man

- He looks - *beholds the face of his birth* (i.e. - sees who he really is)
- He goes away - and stays away!
- He immediately forgets – *to not remember; neglect, disregard*

# The Doing Man

- He looks intently - *stoop in order to examine closely*
- He abides by it – remains/continues
- He acts on it – he is *a persistent doer of work*



# In With the New

- The perfect law, the law of liberty
  - Ethics, righteousness of God (20)
    - E.g. – Ps. 1; 15; NT Epistles
  - Obligations? (2:12)
    - Romans 14(:12)

# *The Law of Liberty*

- *Hearing* the law vs. hearing *the Law*
  - “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.” (Deut. 25:4)
    - 1 Cor. 9:3-10; 1 Tim. 5:17-18
  - Matt. 23:23-24

# *The Law of Liberty*

- The OT Law expresses the character of God (*God's righteous will*)
  - Wisdom/Fear of the Lord (Pr. 3:7)
  - NT: The law of love (James 2:8)
    - Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:13-14

# The Doing Man

- This man will be blessed in what he does
  - We were made to live lives of worship; the more we do, the more we experience blessedness

## Helpful Illustration (26)

- If you think you're OK yet can't control your tongue, you are a forgetful hearer, you are deceiving yourself, and your religious life is a sham

# Helpful Exhortation (27)

- God is pleased when we help the helpless and keep ourselves from evil
  - Job 22:9 - orphans & widows
  - Job 28:28 – ‘...And to depart from evil is understanding’

# So What?

- This is a test!
  - What will you do with what you've heard? Fight, forget, or do?
- God cares about our conduct, and so should we!