

The Book of James

Jas. 1:19-21

Faith

IN

in
ACTION!

Jas. 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

We continue looking at the Christian and his battles, realizing what a believer's relationship with faith looks like:

1. A believer is saved by grace through faith;
2. A believer lives life by walking by faith;
3. A believer learns to be tested by faith.

I. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BATTLES, 1:1-16

A. The Testings of the Christian Life, 1:1-12

B. The Temptations of the Christian Life, 1:13-16

II. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BIBLE, 1:17-27

A. God's Word is Likened to a Gift, 1:17-18

B. God's Word is Likened to a Graft, 1:19-22

1. To Effect a Change in our Talk, 1:19-20

a. Be Swift to Respond to Speaking, 1:19a

b. Be Slow to Respond to Speaking, 1:19b-20

(1) A First Principle, 1:19b "...be...slow to speak, slow to wrath:"

The Bible not only instructs believers regarding “what to do,” but also “why to do it.” We are to be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath. Why? We begin in 1:20 to learn the reason.

(2) A Further Principle, 1:20

The “reason” for the “rule” is...

Jas. 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

- ❖ The righteousness of God should be a primary motive for all believers regarding lifestyle.

- ❖ The only way anyone will be “qualified” for heaven is to be adorned with the righteousness of Christ, which is only by faith.
- ❖ Every believer must maintain control of anger and wrath.

Eccl. 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Prov. 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

Prov. 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

- ❖ “the wrath of man” does not produce results that honor God.

Original Word: ἐργάζομαι **Transliteration:** ergazomai
ergázomai (from *érgon*, "work") – to work (accomplish)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2038.htm>

- ❖ When a believer wants to have conduct or a lifestyle to glorify God, it must be due to the influence of the Word of God.

2. To Effect a Change in our Walk, 1:21

- ❖ James reveals three attitudes which believers should possess to receive God's word:
 - a willingness to receive it with submission, 1:19-20,
 - with purity (v. 21a,)
 - and with humility (v. 21b.)

- ❖ Believers must learn what to lay aside in their daily life.

a. What to Reject, 1:21a “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness...”

Original Word: ῥυπαρία **Transliteration:** rhuparia

Definition: to make filthy **Usage:** filth, pollution, defilement.

rhyparíá – properly, dirt (filth); **(figuratively) moral filth that soils (desecrates) the soul, emphasizing a *specific application* (influence) of moral filth. *rhyparíá* ("moral filth") is only used in Jas. 1:21.** (rupos = wax in the ear.

A hindrance to hearing.)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4507.htm>

Original Word: περισσεία **Transliteration:** perisseia

Definition: superfluity **Usage:** abundance, superfluity.

perisseía – properly, a brand of *abundance*, i.e. what exceeds normal expectations (like underbrush or a cancer needing to be cut-away.) <https://biblehub.com/greek/4050.htm>

SUPERFLU'ITY, *noun* [Latin superfluitas; super and fluo, to flow.]

1. Superabundance; a greater quantity than is wanted; as a *superfluity* of water or provisions.

2. Something that is beyond what is wanted; something rendered unnecessary by its abundance. Among the superfluities of life we seldom number the abundance of money. <https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/superfluity>

NAUGHTINESS, *noun* Naughtiness.

1. Badness; wickedness; evil principle or purpose.

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Naughtiness>

Col. 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have
put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have **put on the new man**, which is
renewed in knowledge after the image of him that
created him:

❖ The putting away of filth precedes the
reception of “the engrafted word.”

b. What to Receive, 1:21b “...and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Original Word: δέχομαι **Part of Speech:** Verb –

Imperative **Transliteration:** dechomai

Definition: to receive. **Usage:** I take, **receive**, accept, welcome.

déxomai – **properly, to receive in a welcoming (receptive) way.** (*déxomai*) is used of people *welcoming* God (His offers), like receiving and sharing in His salvation (1 Thes 2:13) and thoughts (Eph 6:17). <https://biblehub.com/greek/1209.htm>

Original Word: πραΰτης **Transliteration:** prautés

Definition: gentleness **Usage:** mildness, gentleness.

práytēs () – *meekness* ("gentle strength") which expresses *power with reserve and gentleness*.

It is a *divinely-balanced* virtue that can only operate through faith (cf. 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:22-25). Aristotle defined this as a balance between excessive anger and excessive angerless; a quality of a person whose feelings, emotions, and impulses are under perfect control. W. E. Vines defines it as “an inwrought grace of the soul.”

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4240.htm>

1 Tim. 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, **meekness**.

2 Tim. 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that **call on the Lord out of a pure heart**.

23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,

25 In **meekness** instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, **meekness**, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

- ❖ Believers should maintain a very gracious attitude toward God in receiving His Word.

Original Word: ἔμφυτος **Transliteration:** emphutos

Definition: innate, implanted **usage:** inborn, ingrown, congenital, natural, rooted, implanted.

émphytos – properly, **implant, bring into living union like with a successfully engrafted shoot; (figuratively) what is "planted"** and hence "inborn, congenital, natural" (Souter), i.e. placed *in* ("established") which enables something to *develop* (**used only in Jas. 1:21**).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1721.htm>

Psa 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**; and **in his law doth he meditate day and night**.

Summary

- ❖ Believers have a responsibility to control themselves, being strengthened by the Word of God.
- ❖ Before submission to God's Word, a believer needs to clean up and grow up.
- ❖ Believers are to receive God's Word in a humble, welcoming way.

Conclusion

Rom. 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.