

JAMES 1

A STUDY THROUGH THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

You Wouldn't Like
Me When I'm Angry

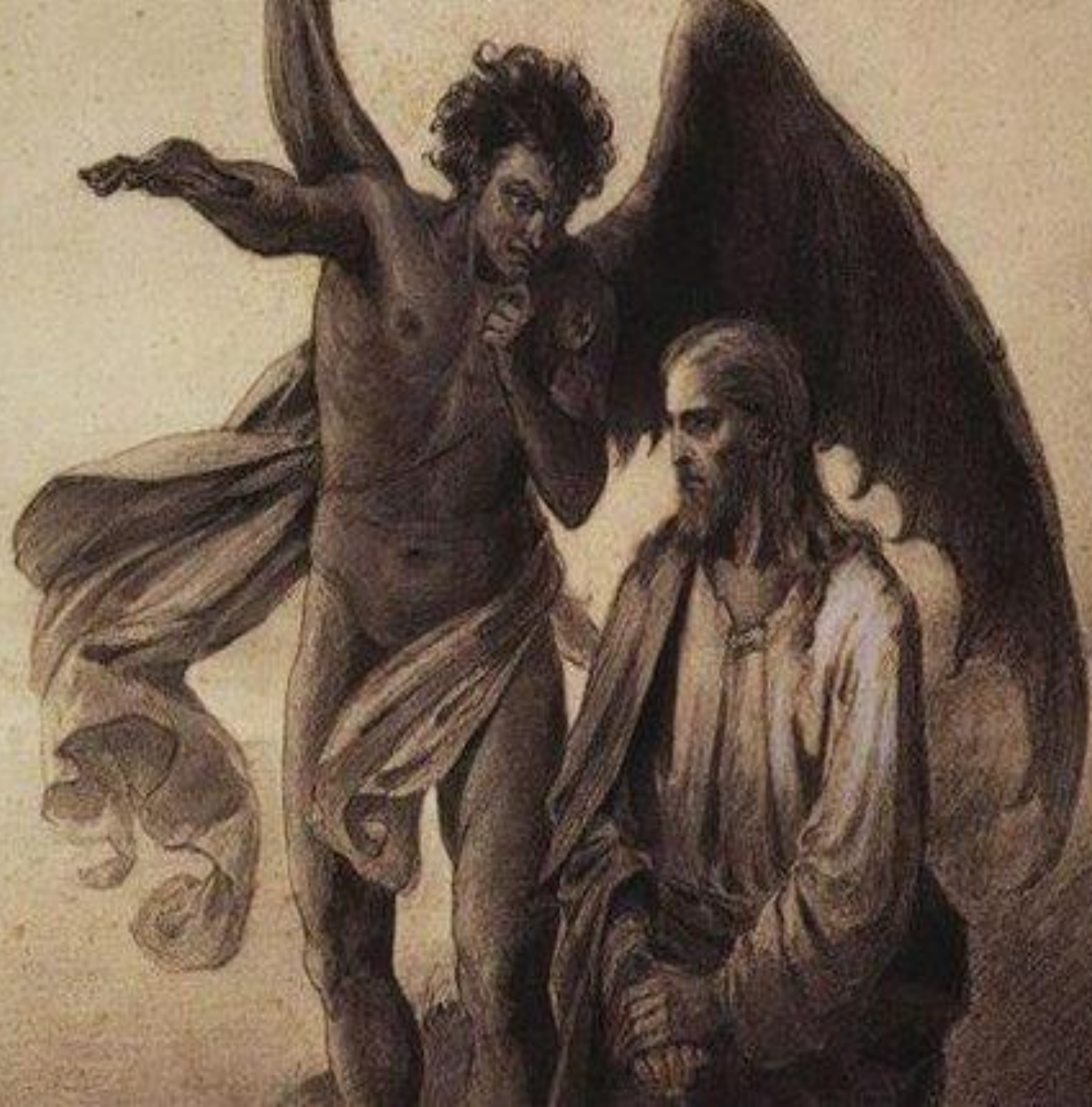
James 1:19-21





What is our knee-
jerk reaction
when we face
trials?

Why?



Thus Far, James Has:

1. Explained the value of trials
2. Explained our options in trials

James' readers already knew what he had just reminded them of in the preceding verses. Nevertheless they needed to act in harmony with this knowledge.

James 1:19-21

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 achieve the righteousness of God. **21** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

A Pastor Teaches His Flock

- In v. 16, James drove home the teaching about our death-bound, sinful nature with:
“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren”
- In v. 19, James drives home the teaching about our new birth with:
“This you know, my beloved brethren”

One Commentator said:

“It is possible to be unfailingly regular in Bible reading, but to achieve no more than to have moved the bookmark forward: this is reading unrelated to an attentive spirit.”

And it is this listless faith that James is addressing here.

I Want to be Practical Today

**And we will address how v. 19
applies to our interpersonal
relationships.**

**But please, don't miss the
connection v. 19 has to the Word
of God.**

The Particulars of v. 19

Who?

“Everyone”

What?

“Quick to Hear”

“Slow to Speak”

“Slow to Anger”

Wherever Wisdom is the Goal

Hearing or
Listening will be
the first virtue.

The Book of Proverbs

of Knowledge
verbs of Solomon
of David, king of

CHAPTER 1

1 ^a1 Kin. 4:32;
Prov. 10:1;
25:1; Eccl.
12:9

2 ¹understand
or discern

4 *Prov. 9:4

5 *Prov. 9:9

1 acquire

6 *Eccles. 12:8

24: 24:5

Isaiah 4:5

4 *Prov. 9:9

24: 24:5

Isaiah 4:5

To the young man
and discretion-

5 ^aA wise man will
and increase

And a man of
will ¹attain

6 To understand
and an enig

The words of
and their

*The fear of
beginning

Proverbs 10:19

“When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”

“Quick” and “Slow”

Learning requires slowness.

Action requires quickness.

If we get this backwards, we will
never grow in our pursuit of God
and righteousness.



**MEASURE TWIC
CUT ONCE**



Why We Must Listen...

Wisdom is often
abandoned in the
name of self-
interest.

Proverbs 17:27

“He who restrains his words has knowledge,
And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.”

James Connects

- Quickness or rashness of speech and a flaring of anger, an uncontrolled human emotion.
- **The connection is clear:**
By practicing a measured and patient response to people verbally, one can keep their wrathful emotions in check.

Proverbs 29:11

“A fool always
loses his temper,
But a wise man
holds it back.”

I Think Paul Would Agree

- **Ephesians 4:26** – “Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger”
- **Colossians 3:8** – “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.”







This Raises the Question

Is Anger a Sin?



Mark 3:1-5

1 He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. **2** They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. **3** He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” **4** And He said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?” But they kept silent. **5** After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Obvious Statement of the Day

You Are NOT God.

(Thank you, Captain Obvious...)

And So...

- For those of us with a sin nature, anger is dangerous, even when expressed in speech.
- Angry speech is part of the temptation to seek vengeance and was of deep concern to James, Jesus, and Paul.

Matthew 5:21-22

21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Romans 12:19-21

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 in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

James 1:20

20 for the anger of
man does not achieve
the righteousness of
God.

Remember...

**James is writing to a
scattered and persecuted
church.**

**What will they be tempted to
do?**

James is Clear Here:

The “righteousness of God” cannot be accomplished by human anger.

Only God can vindicate the righteous by his anger without becoming involved in sin.

How can you not be convicted by this verse?

“righteousness” (*dikaiosynē*)

- Appears 2 other times in James –
- **2:23** – “and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as **righteousness**,’ and he was called the friend of God.”
- **3:18** – “And the seed whose fruit is **righteousness** is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

Anger Must Be Ruled Out.

In our relationship with God (2:23)

Human anger will inhibit the trust necessary for the relationship between the believer and God.

Or in relationship with others (3:18)

Human anger will make peacemaking impossible among fellow believers.

A large, realistic-looking elephant is standing in a modern office environment. The elephant is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing slightly towards the left. It has large, wrinkled ears and a thick trunk. The office has a red carpet, several black office chairs with silver bases, and a large window in the background showing a cityscape. A circular skylight is visible on the ceiling. A black banner with the word "FORGIVENESS" in yellow capital letters is overlaid across the middle of the image.

FORGIVENESS

James 1:21

Therefore, putting aside all
filthiness and all that remains
of wickedness, in humility
receive the word implanted,
which is able to save your
souls.

James 1:21 (KJV)

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

If Anger Must Go...

Then, logically, the chief causes of anger must be abandoned, as well.

In v. 21, James uses the metaphor of taking off and “putting aside” dirty clothes.



Spiritual Discipline

- We are called to rid ourselves of everything that is displeasing to God and destructive of the Christian faith.
- The fact that morally detestable practices must be discarded like a garment tells something important about their nature.

The Nature of Sin

- Many sins are rooted in the memory and structure of desire within the human soul (remember, v. 14?).
- So, why are we called to kill these sins that entangle us?
- Because, in context, there is a contradiction between the righteousness of God and the anger-filled man.

James' Word Choices

- “filthiness” (*rhyparia*)
 - Same as Isaiah 64:6 – “And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment...”
- “wickedness” (*kakia*)
 - Same as Luke 6:45 – “and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil...”

“all that remains” (*perisseia*)

“residue,
remains: the
wickedness
remaining over
in a Christian
from his state
prior to
conversion”



A Convicting Quote:

“We pray for safety
instead of purity
because we do not see
impurity as
dangerous.”

Repentance is Necessary.

**Turn to
1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

However...

- Putting aside evil is not the ultimate goal.
- Look at what James says:
“receive the word
implanted (engrafted)”

What Word?

The “word of truth” from v. 18!

And what can this “word” do?

It is “able to save your souls.”

“able”

δύναμαι (dynamai)

- In Romans 8:39 –

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be **able** to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

A Theology of the Word of God

1. The word takes root as the saving word in the heart and mind of the believer.
2. The word saves and shapes the believer.
3. The word is implanted, which changes behavior in the present and guarantees the saving work of the Spirit in the future.

And the Word Must be Received

“in humility” / “with meekness”

Matthew 5:5 – “Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.”

And now watch James tie this all
together!

Don't You Love Scripture?

- What's the opposite of humility and meekness?

Pride and Anger.

- How does one become humble?

Through the wisdom given by the word.

Rather than speaking in wrath, the wise believer lets the Lord speak through His word and through the teachers of His word.

And It's No Coincidence...

- In 3:13, James will write:

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”

