

**Lesson 5 Living like Jesus; In words, caring for others, unstained by the world & favoritism**

**James 1:26** "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless." James warns us about the danger of deception. Uncontrolled tongues show a people's testimony worthless.

**Amos 5:21-24** "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. V22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. v23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. V24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" True religion both cares for the needy and the poor while seeks God's righteousness. He is emphasizing justice must be constant like life giving water.

**Matthew 12:33-35** "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. V34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. V35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him." This scripture refers to the core nature of a person that ultimately surfaces.

**John 8:42-47** " Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. V43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. V 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. V45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! V46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? V47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." Christians are given the Holy spirit to become more like the Father. Those who belong to the father, the devil, manifest his traits. Paul called him the "enemy of everything that is right... perverting the ways of the Lord.

**Ephesians 4:29** "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." We are to chose positive words that encourage and benefit others.

**James 3:8** "But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." The tongue of a person is untamed and untamable (restless) without God's help.

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**Psalm 141:1-4** "I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you. v2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. V3 Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. v4 Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil so that I take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers; do not let me eat their delicacies."

**Proverbs 12:18** "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Wisdom is paved with careful and truthful words that promote healing to the soul and produce peace. **13:3** "Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin." **18:21** "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Words have power. What a person says will often return to him or her in some way, adding to their life or subtracting from it. Our speech has consequences.

**1) Those who know Jesus control their tongue.**

**Q: Why do you think David ask God to set a guard over his mouth? (Psalm 141:1-4)**

The heart of being a disciple of Christ is being closely connected to who Jesus is and what He values—loving God and loving others. It isn't about "religious stuff", such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; *It's knowing God—having fellowship with God, which results in having the heart of God, which shows itself in the way we live. (Amos 5:21-24)*

Controlling our mouths is an important Christlike quality because Jesus said what comes out of our \_\_\_\_\_ shows what is really in our \_\_\_\_\_ (**Matthew 12:33-35**) Those who speak life; \_\_\_\_\_ and light, are full of the Holy Spirit; those who speak death; \_\_\_\_\_ and darkness are full of the "\_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_," no matter what they do or say on the outside about being "religious". (**John 8:42-47 and James 1:26**)

Controlling our tongues is important because our words can really hurt or heal others. Research shows hurtful words harm us emotionally and can cause lasting physical damage to the brain, especially if experiencing verbal abuse as children and from peers in middle school. Those who experience verbal abuse in middle school had higher levels of anxiety, depression, anger, hostility, and drug abuse than any other category of individuals. Experiencing verbal abuse in early childhood can stifle brain development while positive words can make their brains strong.

We affect our own mood, motivation, and mental and physical health by the way we speak to ourselves. Speaking negatively about our circumstances, other people or ourselves becomes a "self-fulfilling prophecy"—we begin to feel more negatively. Neuroscientific studies prove negative words release stress hormones that cause anxiety, positive words stimulate activity which regulates stress and brings peace. Scripture encourages us to speak \_\_\_\_\_. (**Eph. 4:29**) H\_\_\_\_\_ beings cannot tame their \_\_\_\_\_, (**James 3:8**) self-discipline over our impulses only comes from the power of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_—Self-control. Don't expect others to grow thicker skin.

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**Micah 6:8** "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." These things are what God truly desires of His covenant people, not things offered to Him without a commitment to faithful living.

**Leviticus 23:22** "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God." God's law was designed for the rest of the community to care for the most vulnerable.

**Deuteronomy 25:5-10** " If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. V6 The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel. V7 However, if a man does not want to marry his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to carry on his brother's name in Israel. He will not fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to me. V8 Then the elders of his town shall summon him and talk to him. If he resists in saying 'I do not want to marry her,' v9 his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, take off one of his sandals, spit in his face and say, 'This is what is done to the man who will not build up his brother's family line.' V10 That man's line shall be known in Israel as The Family of the Unsandaled."

**Leviticus 19:34** "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

**This is not just a charitable thing to do, but connects justice to care for the vulnerable.**

**Q: What does John mean by the "things of the world"? Why can't Christians love them?**

**1 John 2:15-17** "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them v16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. v17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." Loving the system of the world prevents fellowship with God. **1) Lust of the flesh** refers to physical temptations, especially sexual sin. **2) Lust of the eyes** is greed, envy, and extravagance. **3) Pride of life** is the arrogant desire to be recognized. Often associated with wealth or position and the desire to appear important so that others will be jealous. **Satan uses tactics to turn believers from God.**  
**1 Peter 1:19** "but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." For Christians, the price of redemption—calls them to a new and transforming standard in faith.

## Living Faith in the World: Book of James

SN2

### Lesson 5: Living Like Jesus; In words, caring for others, unstained by the world & favoritism

**James 1:27** “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

Jesus equates the treatment of people in distress with how people treat Him. Test of true faith  
**Deuteronomy 10:17-20** “For the LORD your God is God of gods and LORD of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. V18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. V19 And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. V20 Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.” Micah said, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is \_\_\_\_\_.” (**Micah 6:8**)

#### 2) Those who know Jesus will care for the vulnerable.

**Q: How does caring for the vulnerable reflect the heart of Jesus?**

The most vulnerable categories of people in ancient society were known as the “quartet of the vulnerable” \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and the poor—they had no money, did not own anything, and had no way to provide for themselves. God’s law was designed for the rest of the community to care for the most vulnerable. Landowners were commanded to leave some of their \_\_\_\_\_ in the fields for the \_\_\_\_\_ to pick. (**Leviticus 23:22**)

**1)** When a man died the law required his closest male relative to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ so she and their children would be cared for. (**Deuteronomy 25:5-10**) **2)** Native-\_\_\_\_\_ Israelites were commanded to treat strangers as if they were native-born and love them as \_\_\_\_\_.

(**Leviticus 19:34**) **3)** The Old Testament connects justice with the treatment of widows, orphans, resident aliens, and the poor. It’s a matter of justice. **4) Justice means that people receive “what is due” them, meaning fair punishment for breaking the law, and basic inalienable human rights.**

**God told His people when they follow the law they would reflect His character to the world.**

#### 3) Those who know Jesus will remain unstained by the world. 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Peter 1:19

**Unstained** means “unblemished” or “spotless” and refers to *moral purity*. As the human eternal sacrifice for all sins for all people for all time, Jesus was the perfect “lamb” without physical \_\_\_\_\_ or even a spot, (**1Peter 1:19**) so His people will be “unstained by the \_\_\_\_\_.”

This doesn’t mean followers of Jesus will be sinless as He was. Only Jesus was truly “without blemish” and “spotless.” **But following Jesus does mean turning away from the things of this world, and turning toward the things of God.**

John’s use of “the world” meant to indicate the desires of the flesh. Paul described as things that are contrary to the Spirit—sexual immorality, impurity, fits of anger, envy, drunkenness and more. Paul said those who belong to Christ have crucified these passions and desires of the flesh. **They have no place in our lives anymore!** It’s about the change in our nature, or heart and mind, as we come to know Jesus. Wanting the things of God.



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**Galatians 5:16-24** “ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. V17 for the flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. V18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. V19 The acts of the flesh are obvious; sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; v20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions v21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. v22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience) , kindness, goodness, faithfulness, v23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. V24 *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”*

**Galatians 3:28** “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Acts 5:3** “Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have *kept* for yourself some of the money you received for the land? *The church did not require anyone to give or sell anything. “Kept back” means to steal, pilfer, and betrays what was in the couple’s heart.* **(Titus 2:10)**

**James 2:5-7** “Listen, my dear brothers and sisters; Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? v6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? V7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?”

**Luke 12:13-21 Tell the Parable of the Rich Fool Last of the Ten Commandments Exodus 20:17**

**Luke 12:15** “Then he said to them, ‘ Watch out! Be on guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” Jesus isolates the real issue: greed or coveting.

**James 5:4** “Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.” Paying late or cheating workers out of their wages was common in these times. OT speaks against this evil.

**1 John 4:7-8, 19-21** “ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. V8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.** V19 We loved because He first loved us. v20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. V21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” God is not just “loving”, **He is love.** Real love is rooted in the character and nature of Almighty God. Biblical love means seeking the best for a person while asking nothing in return. Only God produces this love

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The things we should desire (Galatians 5: 16-24) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

As Jesus was, so His followers will be. Jesus used His words to heal and not \_\_\_\_\_, so His people will guard their \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus cared for the vulnerable, so His people will care for the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus was the spotless lamb, so His people will be “\_\_\_\_\_ by the world.”

Q: How have your desires changed as you have grown in your faith?

4) True followers of Jesus and the church don't show partiality but love all people.

The true followers of Jesus and church shows no partiality because God shows no partiality.

Q: What are the distinctions made in Galatians 3:28; what do they all have in common?

Circle the distinctions in Galatians 3:28. What do they have in common? \_\_\_\_\_

Generosity in this text is absolutely an expectation God has for Christians for all time. But sin creeps in. (Acts 5) Ananias and Sapphira wanted to be seen as people who gave up their wealth for others without actually doing it. The sin for which they were punished was \_\_\_\_\_ about it. Even those who know Jesus are prone to make distinctions between “us” and “them”; hoarding wealth, power and status for themselves. There is no place in the kingdom of God for distinctions, partiality, or power struggles

**Christ is the Lord of glory;**

glory and honor come from Him, not from the categories the world puts on us. Our glory is because of our relationship with Him. **This is why there is no partiality in the kingdom of God!**

5) Our goal in life is to be rich in faith, not rich in worldly possessions. Q What is “rich in faith”

James 2:5-7 and Luke 12:13-21 What counsel does Luke 12:15 give regarding covetousness?

Many rich in the ancient world oppressed others, treating them badly and using them for their own gain, (Proverbs 22:16, James 5:4) but this wasn't true of all wealthy people then or now. It is also not always true that the poor in this world are rich in faith. They are often just as obsessed with money as the rich—with their lack of it and trying to get it. Material riches can be a stumbling block to \_\_\_\_\_, because they think they already have everything they need; no need for \_\_\_\_\_. However, we are to invest our lives in the things that will last—bringing others to Christ and growing in our own spiritual maturity. If you are wealthy gain your wealth in pure and honorable ways and use it to help others and build up the kingdom of God.

6) Part of loving your neighbor as yourself is not showing partiality.

Those who really love God will love His people (1John 4:7-8, 19-21) If you don't love your neighbor you are just giving lip service to \_\_\_\_\_. We will not love everyone perfectly all the time. We are on a journey of sanctification, becoming more like \_\_\_\_\_ every day. No one has arrived! People often misunderstood what Scripture meant by “neighbor”. (Leviticus 19:18) Many thought it meant only family, close friends and neighbors close by. So, who is your neighbor? A foreigner living among you, the poor and vulnerable. Jesus defined it as the \_\_\_\_\_ Samaritan.