

## Implanted Word of God

James 1:18-21

I remember meeting a great uncle I had on my mother's side of the family. His name was Charlie Kent. Charlie was a typical mountain man. I remember going to his house. It was simple, nothing fancy at all. He made brooms for a living. Before we left from visiting him, he gave me a little broom. What I did not know about Charlie was just how simple he was. He was about the last person in his area to have electricity ran into his house. He used the electricity very little. In fact, the only time he used it was to turn on the lights in his house so he can see to light the oil lamps, and then cut them off. To think he raised a fuss when his light bill was \$12 one month. Imagine that for a moment, though. From what I heard, Charlie wasn't the only one who was miserly when it came to electricity. He had all the power he needed to live comfortably in a new environment, but he didn't welcome all of that power.

That's how people do God. They supposedly have Him and all the power that is His, but they refuse to allow Him to do what He would just love to do in our lives. James has some practical words to give us regarding just that. It has to do with how you handle the word of God. So, keeping in the theme of the book of James, another test of our faith is what we do with the Word of God.

James 1:18-21 is our text. You know, I had to reorient the way I approached this passage. We like to isolate one or two of these verses. We take them out of context. When we do, we lose the original intent of the verses. Bear with me as I share that with you in a moment. Let's read the text. We read verse 18 last week. However, it is one of those verses that connects what was just written about with what is about to be read. Verse 18 is one of those things you need to know when facing temptation. Know that you belong to Christ.

<sup>18</sup> In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be <sup>(a)</sup>a kind of first fruits <sup>(b)</sup>among His creatures.

<sup>19</sup> <sup>(c)</sup>*This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;

<sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* <sup>(d)</sup>that remains of wickedness, in <sup>(e)</sup>humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

### Prayer

Verse 19 is one of those verses we like to isolate. When we do, we lose the intended meaning that is understood in the context. We take it to mean how we are to conduct ourselves every day, and that is not really bad. It is something to take note of. Be swift to hear. Be slow to speak and slow to anger.

However, put this verse in context, and it relates to the Word of truth that brought us to new birth in Jesus Christ. So, these verses really are a test of our faith by the way we handle the Word of God.

True believers of Jesus Christ are ones who live their daily life in the Word of God. This all begins with verse 18. The Bible declares that it was of God's own will that He brought us forth or rebirth us by the word of truth.

That's what made us a kind of first fruits of his creatures. That's what made us new creations. It was the word that did it. We heard the word and the word gave us the mind of God and the mind of Christ and God his holy, God the Holy Spirit made faith become alive in our hearts, and we believed the word and were begotten again or born again. It all began with the word. The written Word of God proclaimed the living Word, Jesus Christ. We accept the living Word of God in our hearts. He changes us and now He becomes the implanted Word of God. So verse 18 sets forth the principle that if we are born of God, there is a new relationship that we are to have with the Word of God, both written and living.

For our time, I want to focus on the two commands of this verse. The first command is kind of a negative. The second is a positive. We can't do the second until we do the first. You will see that in a moment.

The First Commandment – Verse 19 – Let us be

Let us be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. This is in reference to the Word of God. The idea is here that someone who is truly regenerate is going to be eager to grasp every opportunity to increase their hearing of God's word because, in fact, they do desire to have the mind of Christ. You do have the mind of Christ when you think like Christ thinks and that's when you think, as the Scripture has revealed, the mind of God.

The idea is to be eager to pursue every privileged occasion to obtain the knowledge of God and His divine will, and never get enough. Literally it says, be swift to the hearing. Be swift to the sermon, if you will. Be swift to the exposition of Scripture. Be swift to the resource to bring you the truth of God.

When we are swift to hear, we will be slow to speak and slow to anger. The speaking and the anger are negative reactions to the Word. Speaking against what God is saying. It is being angry at the conviction the Word of God brings. It is resisting the transforming power of God's Word in your life. Let us remove these tendencies from us. They are of the natural man, not of God.

This is my great uncle Charlie saying, "I'm going to have electricity, but I'm not turning on the lights. I'll sit in the hot house and refuse to let me enjoy the cool of an AC."

The result of disobedience to this command is given to us. The anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. The anger of man does not allow God's way of life to be working in us. That grieves God. That stops Him from working. All the power of God available to us, and yet we refuse to turn on the switch.

This first command must be obeyed. It is conditional for the second command to be obeyed.

The second commandment – Verse 21 – Accept the implanted Word of God.

Receive or accept the implanted word. Yet, for us to obey that command, there is the requirements of taking off all filthiness, dirtiness and excess evil. And with a humility, a humble and gentle attitude, receive the Word. If we don't humble ourselves, we block the receiving the implanted Word.

To humbly receive is to put ourselves in teachable spirit. It is to submit ourselves under the implanted Word of God. What does that mean, the implanted Word of God.

- It is the Word that brought rebirth to you.
- It is put in us to be a part of our nature.
- It is put there to grow to be a part of us, so that in time it will continue to change us to be more and more and more like Christ. To become more and more like Christ is called spiritual growth. This is what James means when he says it will save your souls. There is another word for it. It is called sanctification.

To receive the Word is to allow the written Word that we hear, read, or watch through the hands of another to fuse with the implanted Living Word of God, the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Christ. As this takes place, it brings continued life.

Use our own bodies as a kind of illustration. We don't accept our kidneys. They are already there. But we do accept water that helps our kidneys do the job of purifying our bodies. We don't accept our lungs. But we do accept oxygen that brings life to our flesh.

Our bodies hunger for the oxygen and water. It is needed. So our implanted Word needs the written Word to replenish our spirits.

Are you truly a child of God? Then you will want to receive, accept, breathe in the Word of God to bring refreshing to your spirit. It is something you need daily. You can't hold your breath from Monday through Saturday. You must not withhold God's Word from your spirit. The word of God is like a continuous education that you never graduate from, but that which you need on daily basis.

Be swift to hear. Be slow to reject. Be slow to react against God's word. Receive, accept the written word so that the implanted Living Word will continuously bring to you life.

Nard was born into a tribe in a remote village on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. One day, a white man came into the village. His name was Richard Roe. The tribal leaders asked him what he wanted. Richard in the best way of communicating said, "I want to learn your language." Why do you want to learn our language? He said, "I want to translate a book in your language that tells you how to meet a very powerful God. Is He more powerful than our dead ancestors, more powerful than the head hunters who protect us, and more powerful than the spirits? Richard said, "Yes, more powerful than that."

The tribal leaders agreed to teach Richard the language. For 7 years, Richard stayed, learned the language, and began translating the Bible in their language. At the end of 7 years, Richard had to come back to the US to get support for his ministry. Before he left, he gave Nard a copy of the Gospel of Mark.

Nard was excited. He went and sat on a rock and began in the later part of the Gospel. He read that Jesus was betrayed by one of his friends. He was arrested, beat, and then made to carry a cross to a hill. He read how the Son of God was put on a cross to die. Nard quit reading. He threw the book down. How can someone say God is powerful when he allowed His own son to be killed. That is not a powerful God.

Then God spoke to Nard's heart. "Nard, I love you so much that I allowed my Son to die for you. He died on behalf of you and everyone else who will trust Him." Nard suddenly understood what grace is. He picked up the book. He said, "If you love me that much, I want to give my life completely to you. I will follow you from here on. I give my heart to you." Nard sensed something happen in him.

He then began reading the rest of Mark where Jesus was raised from the dead. The word of the Lord brought new birth to Nard. Nard began to humbly receive the implanted Word in his heart in such that it grew to bring a mature believer in Jesus Christ.

Imagine what would have happened if my Uncle Charlie had fully accepted the electricity that came to his house. Imagine the change and the improvement in his living that would have. Yet, so many Christians in America do the same with the Word of God. Why do you not want to accept the implanted Word in your life? Fear of what it will do? Fear of its own power? Have you been brought forth by the Word in the first place? If so, Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Receive with meekness, humility the implanted Word. Read it. Hear it. Meditate on it. Allow it to infuse the inner most being of your soul. God wants to do so much in your life. Obedience to Him is a must for that to happen.