**Three Qualities of God’s Children**

*James 1:19-20*

**Introduction**

1. In a discussion of faith under trial and temptation, James warned his readers against placing blame upon God **(1:13).**
2. To emphasize that no evil comes from God, James noted that all blessings come from Him **(v. 17).** The most notable blessing being our becoming His children through the word **(v. 18).**
   1. **This is how God begets us. This is how we are “born again.”**
   2. ***“…unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).***
   3. ***“…you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit…having been born again…through the word of God” (1 Peter 1:22-23).***
3. Such a birth through the word of God required a few qualities which the child of God is to CONTINUALLY possess **(v. 19-20).**
   1. James gave attention to these qualities to preface his discussion concerning hearing and doing God’s word.
   2. Such is necessary to bear up under trials and tribulations, and ultimately to please God.
4. **These three qualities of the Christian firstly concern our relationship with God, but also concern our relationship with fellow man. 🡪**
5. Swift to Hear

*In relation to…*

1. God
   1. Biblical Hearing – **James 1:22-25**
      1. The hearing which pleases God, and is necessary for salvation is an active hearing.
      2. You must hear what God’s word says, then do what it says.
      3. ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matthew 13:9)***
   2. Produces Faith – **Romans 10:17**
   3. Gives Light in a World of Darkness – **Psalm 119:105, 11**
      1. **Contrary to the consensus of the day, morality is NOT subjective.**
      2. In order to know right from wrong, we must be eager to hear God.
   4. Proper Nutrition – **1 Peter 2:1-2; John 6:27**
      1. **The need for swift hearing of God’s word is emphasized in our need for spiritual nutrition – God’s word is our only source!**
      2. Would we go a day without eating? Why then without hearing God?
2. Man
   1. To Aid Our Brethren – **Galatians 6:1-2, 9-10**
      1. **(vv. 1-2)** – We should be swift to hear whether brethren need help bearing their load.
      2. **(vv. 9-10)** – We should always be willing to do good to others, and help them in anyway we can.
      3. **However, we must have our ears open to the sounds of need.**
   2. To Teach the Lost – **1 Corinthians 16:8-9** (*Paul seized the opportunity!)*
3. Slow to Speak

*In relation to…*

1. God
   1. When Undergoing Trials and Temptation – **James 1:13** (*Be careful what you say. Don’t accuse God!!)*
   2. Do not speak hastily, and make hasty vows to God – **Ecclesiastes 5:2-5**
      1. **Our prayers to God should be deliberate, and thoughtful. NOT HASTY.**
      2. We should think before we make promises we do not intend to keep.
         1. **Example – PETER – I will die for you!; I will not deny you!; etc.**
         2. He learned his lesson.
2. Man
   1. When teaching – **James 3:1**
      1. Not a discouragement against teaching.
      2. **Rather, a warning as to its GRAVITY. (IT IS A SERIOUS MATTER)**
      3. **Don’t lead men astray with your thoughtless, and rash teaching.**
   2. When making judgments – **James 4:11-12**
      1. Is your judgment for the benefit of the other? (*Restoration of a sinner*) Or with evil motive? (*With intent to condemn*.)
      2. Does your judgment place you in the seat of God – the law giver? (*Judging according to God’s word, or your opinion?*)
   3. Provoking others – **Proverbs 15:1** (Are your words helpful? Words cause harm.)
   4. Sowing discord among brethren – **Proverbs 6:16-19**
      1. Gossip is sinful!
      2. **Brethren are to dwell together in unity, not be at odds with one another.**
3. Slow to Wrath

*In relation to…*

1. God
   1. When convicted of sin – **Acts 7:51-54, 57, 58; cf. 2:36-37**
      1. Both messages were technically the same – you rejected God’s word, and murdered His Son!
      2. The difference was the hearts of the people.
      3. **When we are convicted of sin, are we willing to repent and accept we were wrong, or will we lash out to our own spiritual demise?**
   2. When undergoing trials and tribulation – **Job 2:9-10**
      1. Job’s wife did not have the faith of her husband, nor his patience.
      2. **Job was not quick to make judgments concerning God, and grow hot with wrath toward Him.**
2. Man
   1. In relation to the misconduct of other’s – **Psalm 106:32-33** (*Moses at the rock*)
      1. There is an anger which is right, and an anger which is uncontrolled, and without justification?
      2. **We need not be consumed with wrath when others are not acting properly. Instead, we need to assess the situation, and work God’s will. For… 🡪**
      3. ***“for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (James 1:20).***
   2. When mistreated by others – **1 Peter 2:19-23** (*Jesus as the example*)
      1. We must not allow ourselves to convince ourselves that an outburst of wrath is justified because of mistreatment received from others.
      2. **God expects us to do as Jesus, and endure such mistreatment patiently.**

**Conclusion**

1. **The child of God must possess these qualities in relation to God and man in order to be pleasing to God.**
2. We must always be swift, and willing to hear. We must always think before we speak. And we must always keep our anger in check.