

The Abiding Word

Back To The Bible & Let The Bible Speak

April 30, 2020

Reflections No. 24

WHEN AT HOME

While we are in Lockdown and Isolated from being with other Christians there is one of many blessings we can turn to and be encouraged and learn more of God's Word from. That is the Bible and Great Bible Lessons found online. Below is a LINK to one of many resources I have used to enhance my Bible Study and focus more on God's Word rather than the distractions of life. Let me encourage you to go to this YouTube Channel and begin listening and study one of the many topics.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH7xt-U12cWCqYeB9597eQ/videos>

Back To The Bible & Let The Bible Speak

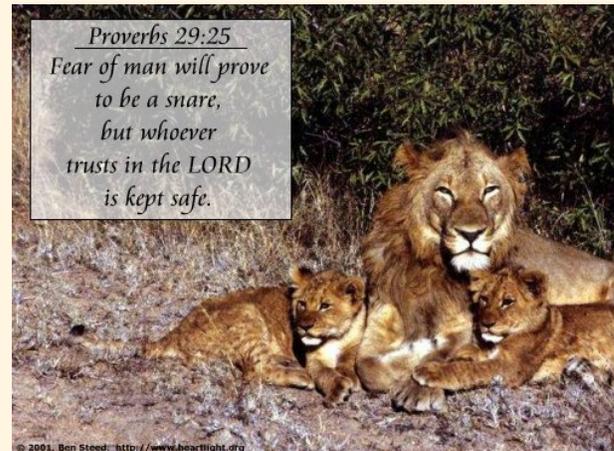


PROVERB FOR THE DAY

One of the key methods I have learned over the years for dealing with the everyday challenges that living throws my way is to meditate on the Word of God each day as I walk with God.

I have found that reading the Proverb for the day in the morning and reflecting on that Proverb and seeing how I can put it to action in my life as I go through the day has become a great faith builder and strength when trials and conflicts come my way.

Each day has its own Proverb and in one month I have applied all 31 Proverbs ready to do it again the next month. It really works, try it.



ABOUT REFLECTIONS

This newsletter will be a weekly publication sent via email as a PDF file to friends and all who subscribe. Please share and send me your comments, questions, and topic requests to EEHealy@veren.com.

To Subscribe send email with **SUBSCRIBE** in subject.
To Unsubscribe send email with **UNSUBSCRIBE** in subject.

www.TheAbidingWord.com

FREE Online Bible Study Resources and eBook Study Guides.

The Spiritual Man of James!

Observations:

Conflicts abound all around us and even within us. In the world, in business, in homes and in the church conflicts are a part of everyday life.

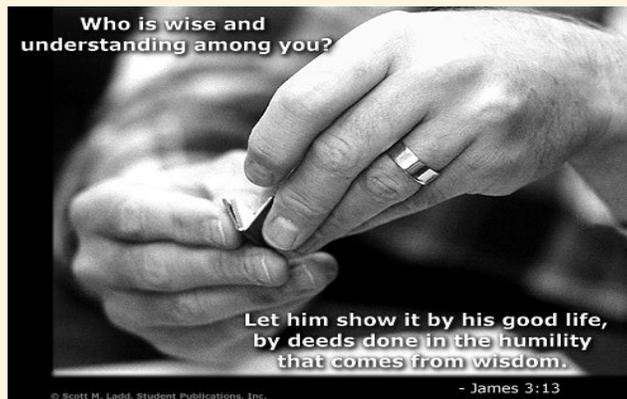
Advice flows from all directions. Everyone seems to have an answer. From TV shows, books being peddled, articles written in newspapers, internet websites, friends, family, co-workers and the list goes on. Here is the answer! The call goes out to wanting ears and needy hearts.

It really boils down to only two main sources. There is the world with many truths to pick from but resulting in no peace and no real resolution.

Then there is God who is "The Truth" which brings the promise of eternal peace and unchangeable resolve.

In the Bible letter of **James 3:13 to 4:10** the Holy Spirit of God inspired the writer to reveal some basic principles on how man can cope with conflict while living each day. These principles are true and trustworthy if only read and applied from within the person. For it is the spiritual man that needs to be grounded in the truth of God so that he can overcome the false truths of the world that so often result in the feelings of failure and frustration.

What is the foundation of your motives?



James 3:13-4:10 (from New International Version)

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

To have peace and victory over the conflicts of life the foundation of the inner person must be on solid ground and rooted in the truth. It becomes a choice each person must make regarding the source of the wisdom we will follow. We can follow the wisdom of the world or the wisdom of God. This is the foundation for all our future choices and planning in life. As a result our motives will be set in the wisdom that guides us and our life will have peace or conflict, failure and frustration or victory.

Look at yourself, your inner person before you take action.

James 4

1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James writing to Christians reminds them and focuses upon the key relationship each Christian has with the creator.

Based upon the truth that the Spirit of God indwells each Christian I must realize that there becomes an inner conflict.

This conflict comes about when I choose not to allow my own spirit to be guided by the Holy Spirit of God.

Thus to be a "Spiritual Man" I need to transform the inner man. This transformation can take place when I focus upon the Truth of God as revealed in the Bible and apply that truth to my life from the inside or inner man.

If I claim to be following God I need to apply and obey the word of God in my life. I can not live in two worlds and obey two masters. I must choose to obey God and His word or I will by default follow the way of the world.

The action plan for success over conflicts.

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

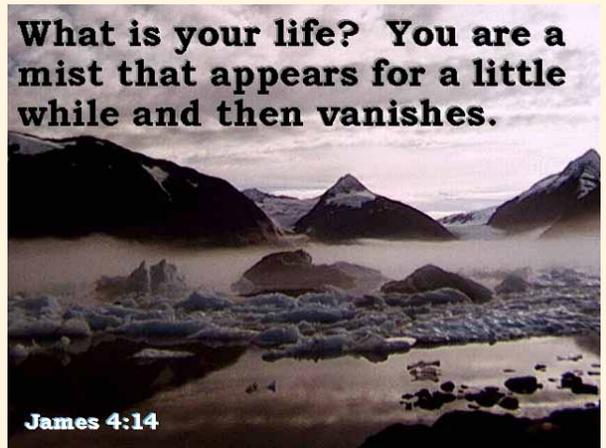
9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

The first step towards becoming the Spiritual Man of God is to come to myself and submit to God. Once I submit then I can be prepared to resist the conflict. To submit is stopping on the path I have been traveling. My feet are now firm and ready for a new direction.

That new direction is back to God. I must turn and head towards God. Only then will I benefit and receive Gods' helping hand.

This principle is seen in the account of the prodigal son who came to himself after a life of self-indulgence. He realized his error, his bad choice and he headed back to his father. **"Luke 15:11-32"**



Then when his father saw him returning, the father ran to greet him and welcome him back. There are two applications here that we need to consider.

First, the father did not seek the prodigal son out. He did not follow after him and try to persuade him to return home. No, he let him go because that was the free will of the son to choose.

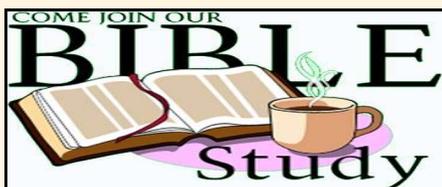
Once the son chooses to return, only then did the father reach out to receive the son. This tells me that God will not chase after me as I go away from Him, but that He will always be watching and waiting, ready to welcome me back once I come to myself and change my direction back to God.

Second, there is a practical principle that I can use when dealing with relationships. For example, sometimes a parent comes to me with distress about a child that has grown and left home. The adult child goes off to college and it appears that they have forgotten all the training the parent has tried to impart over the years. They are now on their own and that freedom to make life choices may result in choices that cause conflict and problems. The parent wants to continue to be a parent and tries to reach out to help. The parent in many cases injects his will upon the young adult and in many cases the result is one of rejection and resentment.

The parent needs to take the Biblical lesson of the prodigal son and apply it to the family relationship. Do not seek or follow after your child. Give the son or daughter the freedom to choose their own direction. As with the father of the prodigal son, as with our Father in Heaven, once we come to ourselves and turn back towards home, then we can see the father running to greet us.

We are all prodigal sons and daughters sometime in our life when we walk in the ways of the world. To be Spiritual is to be rooted in and upon the Truth of Gods' word.

An Invitation!



During The Pandemic Read and Study The Bible.
Visit www.TheAbidingWord.com
For Many Free Study Outlines and Notes