

Spiritual Conception

Text : **James 1: 12-25** (vs. 18)

S#1.

A. Our last lesson dealt with an often repeated command, “Do not be deceived.”

1. We observed that God places great importance on it because He often repeated it.
 - a. **James** stated it as a clear command : **James 1:16**.
 - b. **Paul** warned the church at Ephesus and those in Galatia as well as Timothy.
 - c. **John** admonished us not to be deceived in both first and second John.
2. God emphasized it because all Christians deal with Satan’s attempted deceptions.
 - a. He uses the weaknesses of our flesh to draw us away from our values.
 - b. He uses “smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting”
 - c. He uses his most effective agents to communicate his temptations.

B. This lesson will deal with an even more widely emphasized doctrine; in order to be saved from sin, one must “be born again.”

S#2.

1. Jesus personally instituted the doctrine of the new birth :
John 3: 3 – Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
2. As our earthly father causes us to be born physically, God causes spiritual birth.
I Pet. 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

S#3.

S#4.

C. This lesson will accept that one must be born again and center in on the process by which the new birth is brought about. We’ll start with two verses in our text.

1. **James 1: 18** – In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. S#5.
2. **James 1: 21** – putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

I. The new birth cannot occur without the seed being planted in one’s heart.

S#6.

A. We all understand how the crops grow.

S#7.

1. My wife’s hobby is gardening.
 - a. She is already perusing her seed catalogs.
 - b. Decides what she wants to grow and orders her seeds. (*For more than available space*)
2. She assigns me to prepare the soil.
 - a. I add humus, manure, lime, etc.

- b. I till it real good , let it set a few days and then till it again.
- c. Finally I lay out the rows, make the hills and get out of her way.
- 3. Like everyone else, she plants the seeds and covers them with soil.
- 4. Except for the machines farmers use roughly the same procedure on a larger scale.

B. Spiritual birth function in the same manner; the seed is planted and it grows.

- 1. The parable of the sower appears in all three of the synoptic gospels.
 - a. Matt. 13 ; Mark 4 ; Luke 8
 - b. The farmer broadcasts seeds which fall on different types of soils.
 - c. Jesus explains that the seeds represent the word of God and the soils represent the hearts of men.
- 2. The book of Acts emphasizes the importance of broadcasting of the word of God.
 - a. Act 6 .. The Apostles wouldn't allow themselves to be distracted from proclaiming
 - b. Acts 6: 7 .. As the word spread, the number of disciples increased.
 - c. Acts 13: 49 .. From Pisidian Antioch the word was broadcast is the whole region.
 - d. Acts 19: 10 .. From the school of Tyrannus all in Asia were taught the word.
- 3. Rom. 1:15 .. Paul wrote to the Romans saying he was anxious to preach to them.

C. Many reject the seed from which salvation is grown ... the word of God. S#8.

- 1. Luke 8 .. The seed that fell on the pathway fell on hard hearts that rejected it.
- 2. To reject the word is to prove oneself unworthy of eternal life.

Acts 13: 46 – Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. S#9.

- 3. To the worldly minded person the gospel is foolishness.

I Cor. 1: 18 – For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. S#10.

- 4. Those who consider themselves wise in this world are not receptive to the word.

- a. **I Cor. 1: 26** – For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; **27** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, S#11.

- b. We do not hesitate to preach to the high-minded, but few will accept.

5. Christianity is increasingly ridiculed by those who think they are too educated.
 - a. Many scientists reach the conclusion that the world could not exist without God.
 - b. Other scientists ridicule those who believe in God as superstitious and ignorant.
 - c. Left-leaning colleges teach atheism with religious fervor b/c they reject standard.

6. Christians must be willing to proclaim the word in the face of their ridicule.

- a. **Rom. 1: 16** – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God **S#12.**
for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- b. **Luke 12: 8-9** – And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; **9** but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. **S#13.**

D. We pray for people to be saved, but the seed must be sown before it can grow.

1. Can you imagine praying for your garden to grow without planting any seeds ?
2. Likewise, the seed from which salvation grows must be planted.

II. The seed which is the word must be allowed to germinate and grow.

S#14.

A. The seed cannot grow when surrounded by weeds.

S#15.

1. We till the soil in the garden to clear out the weeds and prepare the soil.
2. Spiritually, we are also instructed that we must clear out the weeds.

- a. **James 1: 21** – putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, **S#16.**
in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls

- b. **I Pet. 2: 1-2** – Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, **2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

3. Luke 8 ... This is what Jesus taught in the parable .. seed was choked by worldliness.

S#17.

B. The word must be implanted in one's heart. "in humility receive the word implanted"

1. In the New Testament, there are several different ways people respond to the word.

- a. Those in **Acts 13: 46** scorned it so they will be condemned, but those who obey.

Mark 16: 15-16 – And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the **S#18.**
gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized
shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

- b. Some were frightened and did not want to hear it.

Acts 24: 25 – But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the **S#19.**
judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said,
"Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."

- c. Some received it with great joy as did those in Berea. S#20.
Acts 17:11 – Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.
- 2. The parable of the sower was actually the parable of the various hearts.
 - a. The way one responds to the gospel reveals what kind of heart he has.
 - b. ☺ When the Taliban leaves the women shed their burkas revealing their mini-skirt
 - c. God seeks a heart-to-heart relation not just outward conformity. S#21.
Rom. 6: 17 – But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
- C. The seed does not always instantly sprout and grow. S#22.
 - 1. The Apostle Paul acknowledged the need to cultivate the seed once it is planted.
I Cor. 3: 6 – I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.
 - 2. Thus, our responsibility does not end when we broadcast the seed, i.e., the word.
 - 3. It is like when we plant the seed in our garden, the work is just beginning. S#23.
II Cor. 5:11 – Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.
 - a. Persuasion takes many forms and often a lengthy period of time.
 - b. Persuasion is often most effective when done by a group.

III. Once germinated, the word requires maintenance to continue thriving. S#24.

- A. Salvation is by grace through faith.
 - 1. **Eph. 2: 8-9** – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. S#25.
 - 2. Faith is generated as a response to receiving the word of God implanted. S#26.
 - a. **Rom. 10: 17** – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
 - b. **James 1: 21** – putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls
 - 3. The word only produces faith in those who receive it as the word of God.
 - a. Some do not profit from hearing the word.
Heb. 4: 2 – indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; S#27.
 but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

- b. Those who received the word as coming from God can be saved by it.

I Thes. 2: 13 – For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. **S#28.**

- c. Our text declares that the word can lead us to salvation when it creates faith.

James 1: 21 – ... receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls

B. Faith is dynamic; it grows and it can die.

S#29.

- 1. The Apostles taught that the word is essential to keeping our faith growing.

- a. **I Pet. 2: 2** – like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

- b. The Apostle Paul told the Ephesian elders that the word was the key to faithfulness.

Acts 20: 32 – And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **S#30.**

- 2. We are also warned that we can also suffer the loss of our saving faith.

- a. **II Thes. 2: 10-12** – and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. **S#31.**

*** Failure to love the truth is spiritually devastating.**

- b. **I Cor. 15: 1-2** – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **S#32.**

- c. **Heb. 3: 12** – Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

CONCLUSION :

- A. God brought us into His family through His word.

S#33.

James 1: 18 – In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth,

- B. God maintains us as healthy children through His word.

S#34.

I Tim. 4: 6 – In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.

INVITATION : If you are not in Him, allow His word to produce faith.

S#35.

S#36. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 1: 12-25**

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. **16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. **17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. **18** In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

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. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24** for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25** But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.