

Let Your Yes

Be Yes

3-1-26

James 5:12 (ESV)

But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

In the last Chapter of James, the Holy Spirit tells us not to be full of ourselves, but to simply and concisely state the truth of God. Adding a lot of excess commentary, may bring about our own condemnation. Swearing by any oaths takes focus off the pure action of Jesus! Jesus said:

Matthew 5:37 (ESV)

Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

This morning, I want to share how God used these verses in my life. I came to Jesus through reading the Bible. Therefore, I was horrified by professing believers who did not believe the Bible or even questioned that it was inspired by God. This did help me identify and reject false teachers. However, my feeling of responsibility to protect Biblical truth, I often failed to exhibit the love and grace of God.

Long story made short, God spoke to me and revealed to me my error in Proverbs.

Proverbs 22:12 (NIV)

The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but HE frustrates the words of the unfaithful.

Proverbs 22:12 (NCV)

The LORD guards knowledge, but HE destroys false words.

The Holy Spirit revealed to me that it is God's responsibility to guard knowledge, and HE would frustrate those who mishandled HIS Words. The point was clear enough—the Lord acts to vindicate the HIS truth. My thinking totally changed! I do have a responsibility to share truth with others, but it is God's responsibility vindicate HIS WORD in the one who hears it. It is not my job to implement God's Word in someone else. A huge burden lifted from me. I better understood, let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no. To elaborate, I realized:

Proverbs 17:27 (NCV)

The wise say very little, and those with understanding stay calm.

As I recognized God's responsibility to guard knowledge, my interactions started to depend more on the Holy Spirit's leading. Also, by talking less and waiting on the Holy Spirit, we are able to understand better who we are talking to and see what God is doing in their lives, and how HE wants us to speak to them. Also, there are people God does not want us to speak to. Let me share some insight:

Proverbs 23:9 (ESV)

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,
for he will despise the good sense of your words.

Proverbs 10:14 (ESV)

The wise lay-up knowledge,
but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near. -or-*

*(Brings ruin upon himself)

This applies to all conversations. The Holy Spirit will tell us who we are talking to. We speak the simple and concise truth. We learn, the fool is one who hears the truth and adjusts the truth. Thus, we should stop talking, because the fool is the architect of their own chaos. However, the wise hear the truth and adjust to the truth and we can continue to engage and they change.

Proverbs 11:27 (ESV)

Whoever diligently seeks good, seeks favor,
but evil comes to him who searches for it.

(People are the architect of their own chaos.)

Proverbs 13:13 (ESV)

Whoever despises the WORD brings destruction on
himself, but he who reveres the WORD will be
rewarded.

- **See above - (People's attitude toward the WORD determines their future.)**

Proverbs 14:6 (ESV)

A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is
“EASY” for a man of understanding.

- **See above - (Scoffer never finds wisdom, but it is easy for those who are truly sincere.)**

Thus calmly concisely share the WORD of GOD.

Titus 1:15 (ESV)

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled
and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their
minds and their consciences are defiled.

Remember where it starts:

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name
of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and
you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.