



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

BROUGHT FORTH BY THE WORK OF TRUTH – JAMES 1:18

COLORADO

FEBRUARY 19, 20017

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The solution for not yielding to sin in our lives is found in a close relationship with Jesus Christ and submitted to the Word of God to the point that we actually respond to God's Word with obedience and godliness. The light of the sun comes and goes, from day to night. It is always casting different lights and shadows as the earth rotates. At night, there is no light at all from the sun. But James is saying that God is not like this. God is the Father of lights. His is unchanging reflecting His nature; never diminished, never hidden, never corrupt, never varies. God is constant, faithful and trustworthy! God is the "same yesterday, today and forever!" as Hebrews 13:8 says. He will always give immeasurably; just what we need to live the life He has called us to live. We must arm ourselves with His Word and prayer, together with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives so that we can resist temptation and sin, and endure to maturity.

I. BROUGHT FORTH BY THE WORD OF TRUTH - JAMES 1:18

"In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures." James 1:18

As James moves from verses 14-16 in chapter one, to James 1:18, he presents a subtle and intentional contrast between two births. The first birth is seen in 1:14-16 where lust has conceived giving birth to sin and that "brings forth" death. James 1:18 represents the contrasting birth of believers who are conceived by God's will through His Word. One birth brings forth death and the other brings forth life. One submits to sin and the other submits to God and His Word. And by James' subtle contrast of births, he introduces us to his new focus on the Word of God. James will continue to elaborate upon this theme throughout the chapter. Having turned his attention now to the Word of God, what does James have to say in verse 18?

A. GOD'S WILLFUL CHOICE OF US! – JAMES 1:18A

"In the exercise of His will..." James 1:18a

"in the exercise of His will" Greek word "**boulomai**," means one to will, designating an inner decision or thinking, expresses the idea of the deliberate and specific exercise of volition, will, a choice, a decision, a specific preference.

This phrase clearly reinforces the truth of God's sovereignty and His own will as the source and foundation of a new creation, or new life in James 1:18. James simply states that God deliberately and specifically exercised His volition, His preference and His power; to make a decision to draw us to Himself! It is clear from Ephesians 2:1-9, that in and of ourselves, we have

no power to change ourselves. We are dead in our trespasses and sins. But God, being rich in mercy has made us alive, though we were dead.

John 1:12-13 emphasizes this point by saying, "*But as many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*" It was by the will of God that we have been born into a new relationship with Jesus Christ as James so clearly emphasizes in this verse. It is amazing and humbling to realize that the God of the universe, the "Father of lights" (James 1:17) made an intentional and willful choice to draw us to Him. And He did so, as Romans 5:8-10 says, while we were enemies to God. "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*"

B. BROUGHT FORTH – JAMES 1:18B

"In the exercise of His will He brought us forth..." James 1:18b

"brought us forth" Greek word "**apokueo**," means to be pregnant, verb rendering giving birth.

James refers to a birth by the use of this phrase, "*brought forth*". It is the same root word of the verb used in James 1:15 whereby death is brought forth from sin. But in this case, the new birth that occurs as a result of the decision that God deliberately and specifically makes, is the new birth of a true believer in salvation. This new birth is the work of God in the heart of a sinner whereby that sinner is regenerated, reborn and made alive to God. It is God's work by His will in our lives that gives birth to our new spiritual life in Christ. Here James emphasizes this subtle but intentional contrast revealing how sin and unrighteousness brings forth death, but God Who is righteous brings forth, gives birth to new life.

After Augustine was converted to faith in God, a woman he formerly lived with called to him as he walked down the street, but he did not answer. She persisted and finally she ran up to him and said, "Augustine, it is I." To which he replied, "I know, but it is no longer I."

C. BY THE WORD OF TRUTH – JAMES 1:18C

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0107

Colorado

BROUGHT FORTH BY THE WORK OF TRUTH – JAMES 1:18

“In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth...” James 1:18c

“by the word of truth” Greek word **“logismos aletheia,”** means by the truth’s word, a reflection of truth, exacting truth, denotes truth as the reality clearly lying before our eyes as opposed to a mere appearance, without reality. Truth as opposite of falseness. The word of truth is the whole of God’s Word, in its more restricted sense is the gospel, God’s Word being authoritative truth.

God deliberately and specifically exercised His volition, His preference and His power; to make a decision to draw us to Himself by the Word of truth! As believers, we are *“brought forth”*, we are born spiritually by God’s will through His Word which is truth. And here we learn of the regenerating power of the Word of God. James 1:21 builds on this truth by saying, *“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”*

God’s Word is the authoritative truth. In our day, the sense of authoritative truth has been lost. There is no one truth, especially God’s Word. In fact, even in the church, we pick apart God’s Word, choosing to believe what we want and what we can live with. The authority of God’s Word is questioned from the pulpit to the pews. After all, if God’s Word actually is truth, then we would be called to live by it, right? Is it just a book full of errors with guidelines on how to live? *NO, it is far more.* For it is the authoritative, reliable, trustworthy, dependable, solid, inerrant, never changing but life changing Word of God! It is the *“power of God for salvation”* from Romans 1:16. It is the *“incorruptible seed”* of 1 Peter 1:23, *“for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.”* It remains forever as Isaiah 40:8 says, *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”* By the Word of God we can be saved from sin and by the Word of God we can be kept from sin, *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.”* Psalm 119:9. It is what we are to believe and receive as the Thessalonians did and were commended by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, *“And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, 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.”* And in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we learn that, *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”* And because God’s Word is able to give all men wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ, because obedience to God’s

Word can keep us from falling into temptation and sin, because God’s Word is profitable in every sense for our lives...that is what we are called to proclaim and preach! *“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom; preach the word...”* 2 Timothy 4:1-2.

If that’s the case, then how well do you know God’s Word? Are you eager to learn it, study it? Is this your passion? James will show us in the following verses of chapter one that true faith results in obedience to God’s Word. If you are a true and genuine believer, it will show, for true faith is a doer of the Word. Therefore, I commend you to Peter’s exhortation in 1 Peter 2:1-2, *“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”* As a nursing baby yearns for milk to survive, so we too must crave God’s Word for all of life! Do we hunger and desire for time in His Word? Does our heart ache to be nourished by His life changing truth? That’s how we will grow, mature and become as pure silver refined!

D. RESULTS IN A HARVEST TO THE GLORY OF GOD – JAMES 1:18D

“In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.” James 1:18

“First fruits” was a term used in the Old Testament. Leviticus 23:10-11, Exodus 23:19 and Deuteronomy 18:4 reveal that the first and best crops that were harvested during the season were known as *“first fruits”*. These *“first fruits”* were to be given to God as a sign of love and dedication to God. James, we remember, was addressing the first of Jewish believers and here refers to them as the first of the harvest given to God. There would be many more believers to come later in the harvest, but these believing Jews were *“the first fruits”* as it were.

James continues by referring to *“His creatures”*, meaning all who would be saved unto Jesus Christ.

“creatures” Greek word **“ktisma,”** means a material creation, to build, that which is created, created thing, to plant a colony.

James addresses here the first believers of among many, more to come for God is planting a colony, God is building a church and as believers, we are one of *“His creatures”*!