James #28

Learn to appreciate your eternal position.

Pick it up where we left off last lesson in 1Timothy chapter 6 RF.

Our current series stems from James chapter one – verses 9 into verse 10 specifically.

Which if you do not understand the historical context, you could misconstrue the meaning of what Pastor James is teaching.

/Jam 1:9 Now the brother *or sister* of humble *circumstances* is to **glory in his high position**; 10 but the rich person *is to glory* in his humiliation, because **like flowering grass he will pass away**.

The lesson that James highlights – is that wealth, bloodlines or prestige are distractions and false security – the Christian’s eternal position is where the glory and riches are found.\

Many Jewish converts in Jerusalem, looked down their nose upon Gentile Bels.

There were also some wealthy Jewish converts who held themselves in high regard in the church.

This is what James is addressing.

/Those with social status or wealth, should never dictate what comes from the pulpit. Nor should they hold authority over those with less notoriety in the congregation. If a pastor is easily bought and manipulated by purse strings or social influence, he has lost his ability to lead. Perhaps, he never had the gift to begin with.\

In 1Timothy 6 we noted the Apostle Paul teaching an important principle in relation to gaining spiritual momentum. It points us to capacity which is recognized in the plan of GOD.

Many spiritual skills are learned and they need time, growth and our focus to truly have capacity in these areas.

What we know Divine happiness is truly a form of contentment.

The Cosmic System has a counterfeit definition of happiness - it is related to emotional euphoria. REPEAT

Immature Bels rarely hold onto any contentment, they always need stimulation and they need comfortable circumstances.

SM Bels have learned contentment in any circumstance.

REPEAT

[1Ti 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/7/s_1125007) For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, either.

Every Christian needs this verse plastered on their refrigerator.

Many scriptures need to be in our face daily to keep us on track.

/There is no amount of wealth, land, prestige or recognition that accompanies you beyond the grave. The only reward and recognition we receive is through our union with Christ and what HE accomplishes IN US after salvation. The mature Bel lives by this very fact, the details of life, good or bad, does not distract them.\

God cares more about your spiritual capacity then your bank account and social status.

When the Christian has a priority issue that brings forth a capacity issue.

When your priorities are all directed at the temporal life – the details of life, instead of your relationship with God, this is glaring warning you lack spiritual capacity.

/[1Ti 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/8/s_1125008) If we have food and covering, with these **we shall be content**.

Phl 4:11 Not that I speak from need, for **I have learned to be content in whatever *circumstances* I am**.\

*We shall be content,* is written in the future tense – indictive mood. This is a true statement of fact, no matter what happens in the future.

This is because as the Apostle Paul had taught many times - contentment comes as a skill set, it must be learned.

REPEAT

Contentment is divine happiness and it only unfolds in the life of a Bel who is growing toward maturity.

/ Whenever a Believer is prosperous it does not mean that a Bel is also spiritual mature. Prosperity does not indicate godliness. Godliness is the basis for true prosperity but prosperity does not imply godliness. Capacity always occurs before higher levels of growth and blessings unfold in our life.\

The adversities and testing we endure and pass bring forth capacity.

Capacity happens by becoming steadfast during challenges and tests.

/[1Ti 6:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/9/s_1125009) But **those who want** (*boulomai*)**to get rich** fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which **plunge people into ruin** and destruction.

The Greek present tense – deliberate intentions, strong desires toward power, wealth and approbation is a pathway to self-induced misery.\

BULL-OH-MY, this verb speaks to a strong desire, it points to great effort, a lust pattern.

Money or even fame and power are never the issue – the capacity to handle those blessings are the issue.

[1Ti 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/10/s_1125010) For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

THE LOVE OF money is the root!

/We pierce ourselves like a massive, fish hook into our soul, when our desires and efforts are pointed toward the cosmic system away from our relationship with God. The root of all sorts of evils are found within the OSN’s lust patterns. Until the Christian recognizes their own weakness in the flesh as well as strength in the flesh, they continually get pulled off the path toward maturity.\

It is the equivalent of taking two steps forward and three steps backward.

Even if it means enforced humility and enforced study habits.

A Christian must turn themselves toward the WORD of God in a serious fashion.

/[1Ti 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/11/s_1125011) But **flee**(*pheugō*) **from these things**, you man of God, and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, *and* gentleness.

(Pres, Act, Imp,)- the responsibility is on the Believer! To take flight, escape to safety – avoid the danger, vanish! \

FYOU-GO, Pres, Act, Imp- this verb is set in a command form, present tense – keep on doing this!

The active voice points to the Bel’s responsibility.

This is a serious command to take responsibility now and going forward.

You can never grow when you continually allow the OSN’s lust patterns to dictate your life.

One sign of a Bel heading into higher levels of maturity – is they keep short accounts with the OSN.

As soon as they fumble and fail in sin, within minutes or hours, they wash themselves clean and make the adjustment.

REPEAT

The Super-grace mature Christian can sense the OSN as it begins to tempt them and they often cut it off before they fall into sin.

It is what the Apostle Paul taught us in 2Cor 10:5 – *taking every thought* *captive to the obedience of Christ,*

[1Ti 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/12/s_1125012) Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and *for which* you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

To take hold of the eternal life, speaks to walking in your eternal position right now in time.

/Fighting the good fight is understanding the angelic conflict, the power of the WORD and the filling power of the HS. This spiritual fight is predominately fought within the soul structure – thoughts, growth, knowledge (BD) turning into divine wisdom (application). Your OSN is opposed to the plan of GOD, therefore it can never be allowed into the seat of authority.\

Many pastors teach fighting the good fight by marching around an abortion clinic. Or getting involved in some type of Christian activism….which, most of the time that is human good, not divine good.

REPEAT

/Fighting the good fight is found in the two power options (Filling of HS/Word) habitually applied into the life of a Believer. When a Christian acknowledges and turns from the temptations of the OSN, they find victories that will compound over time into greater strength. God gives us what we need to stand firm against the attacks.\

Jump over to the Gospel of Mark chapter twelve.

We are never told to rush out into the world looking to fight Satan.

/1Pet 5:8 **Be of sober *spirit,* be on the alert**. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around **like a roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour. 9 So **resist him, firm in *your* faith,** knowing that the **same experiences of suffering** are being accomplished by your **brothers and sisters who are in the world**.\

We all go through our share of tests, adversity, challenges and attacks. We are always called to stand firm in our faith – we often reference the problem-solving skill of Faith rest.

You make sure you adjust to the justice of God. Then cling onto the doctrine and scriptures, or promises of GOD and stand your ground.

REPEAT

This means you have to have a solid soul structure to pull from, a spiritual walk you can stand in.

This portion of the Gospel of Mark was during a time…one of the many times, the Sanhedrin would send out Pharisees to go out in a public setting, to challenge and try to trip up our LORD.

They always came at our LORD – both the Sadducees and Pharisees with a front, like they respected HIM.

/Mark 12:38 And in His teaching He was saying: “**Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes**, and *like* **personal greetings in the marketplaces,**

Jesus warned repeatedly against the Bible Scholars of the day. They lived a very comfortable life, wealth and recognition gave them great security.\

Yet many of these Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees were very corrupt and a few of them were counterfeit Israelites.

In the book of Revelation, they will become known as the synagogue of Satan. Organized religion led by followers of the beast system. (Rev 2-3)

[Mar 12:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mar/12/39/s_969039) and seats of honor in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets,

/There is no higher honor or any form of prestige in the devil’s world nor is there any found in our flesh. Those are all hollow lies and demonic deceptions. The only honor and prestige we ever receive comes from our union with Christ and what we do with God’s grace gifts in time. Then we can achieve true blessings, crowns and rewards - BECAUSE OF HIM! \

No one in any body of a Christian congregation should be given favoritism or authority over others because of their social status or wealth.

There are times coming when even good pastor-teachers will be rejected.

A doctrinal pastor can never fold under financial pressure or social pressure to become a puppet of a few wealthy or influential people.

I believe the closer we get to the end time events the less solid, doctrinal teaching will be available.

/Amos 8:11“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord God, “**When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water**, But rather **for hearing the words of the Lord**.\

When people no longer support doctrinal ministries - the ministries have to eventually fold, no one can survive without financial support.

/Amos 8:12 “People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; **They will roam about to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find *it****.*\

We are currently already in the days that the Apostle Paul warned his student Timothy about;

/2Tim 4:3 For *the* **time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine**; but *wanting* to **have their ears tickled**, they will accumulate for themselves **teachers in accordance with their own desires**,\

This began to grow shortly after the first century and has increasingly become worse in the year of our LORD 2025.

Jesus was warning his disciples that these false teachers who lived a lavish and respected lifestyle, were not only corrupt but they were of their father the devil. The original liar and murderer from the beginning of time.

[/Mar 12:40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mar/12/40/s_969040) **who devour widows’ houses**, and for appearance’s sake **offer long prayers**. These will receive all the more condemnation.”

Teachers and church leaders will be held to a higher standard. The Sanhedrin was filled with greed, corruption and false doctrine. All done at the expense of the people, financially and spiritually.\

They taught skewed doctrines and legalism - damaging spiritual growth for people hungry for the truth.

They also used manipulation and guilt to pick the pockets of even the widows.

Don’t lose sight of how Jesus is describing them – HE also mentions the long, drawn-out public prayers and rituals they used to appear holy.

Mar 12:41 And *Jesus* sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* watching how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large amounts.

Jesus positioned HIMSELF for this exact reason – to teach all of us a very pertinent lesson.

Christian leaders who lead God’s people astray and take advantage of others will answer for that at some point;

/Ezk 7:26 ‘Disaster will come upon disaster and rumor will be *added* to rumor; then they will seek a vision from a prophet, but the Law will be lost from the priest, and counsel from the elders.\

The Dispensation of Israel lost their client nation status due to following lust patterns and accepting false doctrines.