James #31

Spiritual Death

I would like to keep the areas of the Ohio valley such as Kentucky in prayer, they have faced some devasting hurricanes recently.

We want to keep some family members of Rob and Marla in prayer – KC & Dodie Caulder, are dealing with the death of a loved one - so please lift them up in prayer.

Also, I’m requesting prayer for my dog Tiger.

Let us get back into our anchor study of James chapter one RF.

We will read through a few scriptures to get our footing back.

Jam 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

[Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/6/s_1147006) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

James was concerned about the direction some of his congregation members were heading into.

 His main focus, was to get them back into paying attention to building up the inner strength of the soul, where BD and faith need a firm foundation.

[Jas 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/7/s_1147007) For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

[Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Christians caught up in the pettiness of pride and the MA sins of the OSN become unstable over time.

Habitual fellowship is interrupted and they drift outside the plan of GOD.

Sometimes they drift so far outside God’s plan, that they place themselves in adversarial positions toward God.

They become an enemy toward true grace, just as the Unbeliever is an enemy of the Cross of Jesus Christ.

[Jas 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/9/s_1147009) Now the brother *or sister* of humble *circumstances* is to glory in his high position;

[Jas 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/10/s_1147010) but the rich person *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

As I have explained several times in the past few weeks the historical context pointed to the ongoing issues of those Jewish converts looking down their nose on Gentile Bels.

There were also those wealthy converts in Jerusalem who believed they were above others in the congregation due to social status or wealth.

James is reminding them that GOD looks at the heart – all of this temporal window dressings are nothing in the end.

/[Jas 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/11/s_1147011) For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and **the beauty of its appearance is destroyed**; so also the **rich person, in the midst of his pursuits, will die out**.\

Vanity of vanities all is vanity… as King Solomon so eloquently pointed out.

[Jas 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/12/s_1147012) 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.

/Jam 1:11 - *the beauty of its appearance is destroyed;*

The painful reminder they needed is what we all need from time to time, that the beauty and strength we see in the mirror is fading. The bank account and the details of life can never sustain us. There is no human fix to avoid the eternal reality.\

This will open up a brief study on a very difficult doctrine…the doctrine of death.

This is never an easy subject, yet for the Bel it is very enlightening and actually uplifting.

For the Unbel on the other hand – this is what I think God uses for the wake up and shake up.

There is a consequence at the end of this temporal walk and you can choose the path now, because once you pass over into physical death there is no more time left.

 REPEAT

Turn in your bibles into the OT Genesis chapter two RF.

/Death is viewed in several categories in scripture – Spiritual death, physical death, the second death, Dead works (James), positional death, temporal death, sexual death. Every one of these categories is covered throughout the scriptures. No one avoids the reality of death, yet there is one death that is a deciding factor concerning eternity – Spiritual Death.\

Everyone is born spiritually separated from God. We are born spiritually dead.

There is no meditation technique, weekend retreat or special chants or prayers, that brings forth a spiritual life that is connected with GOD.

There is only one new birth after your physical birth that connects us to God;

/Jhn 3:3 **Jesus responded** and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

Jhn 3:7 “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again**.’\

Gen 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it.

[Gen 2:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/2/16/s_2016) The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat;

The first command in the Garden reveals mankind’s free will.

/[Gen 2:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/2/17/s_2017) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it **you will certainly die.”**

*mûṯ mûṯ mûṯ -* *dying you shall die*. First is written in the imperfect tense, second is the infinitive absolute, the third is in the imperfect tense.\

MOOTH – this Hebrew verb is written 3x in the Qal stem, the first time it is written points directly to spiritual death.

The second one in the infinite points to physical death.

The third reference to death is pointing to a death which is perpetuated forward.

 REPEAT

Spiritual death was the source of destroying fellowship with God, intimacy was destroyed; physical death is a result of spiritual death, perfection ended in the garden.

The Garden was designed as a type of heaven and it was also a display of what free will brings forth.

All created creatures lack, true divine perfection.

It is only GOD – HIS purity, His righteousness, HIS veracity and justice that brings forth pure, eternal perfection and bliss.

/Man was preserved by eating of the tree of life which perpetuates him in divine innocence, once he disobeyed God—the tree of life was cut off (fellowship, eternal life, intimacy, perfection). The day that Adam ate of the tree (knowledge, good and evil) he died—spiritually. “*The wages of sin is death*” does not mean physical death, it means spiritual death.\

Jump back into the NT – Ephesians chapter two RF.

God in HIS perfect plan allows us to be born again by simply using the free will HE gave us. Because TLJC fulfilled all legal and prophetic obligation for us – Jesus became our Savior and our substitute, our mediator in time.

/God could never deny HIS own justice, righteousness and veracity, allowing sin and evil to fellowship with HIM, prosper under HIS hand and live in harmony in heaven. Therefore, Jesus Christ resolved all the issues of righteousness, justice and truth for us. Our LORD resolved issues of prophecy, legality, penalty and purity by imputing HIS very righteousness into us and breathing a new spiritual life into us.\

The angels in eternity past fell first – there was a conflict ignited, a rebellion ensued and we are given an opportunity to resolve the issue once and for all time.

At some point, all angels fell – 1/3rd remained with Satan, while the rest repented and were given salvation.

Most likely through the power of the King of kings and lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, we simply do not have all the details in this temporal life.

What becomes apparent in deeper bible studies, is this is one of the main reasons we were created.

 Look at how the Apostle Paul presents our human condition;

/Eph 2:1 And **you were dead** in your offenses and sins,

Spiritual death is a judgement on the human race. It means ALL OF US were born into the devil’s world as enemy combatants.\

Everyone is born with a curse that ends in the Lake of Fire.

[Eph 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/2/s_1099002) in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

/We are born spiritually dead and related to a demonic spiritual connection through the OSN. Eph 2:2 - *of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.* We are born with a body and soul, having a nature that is on a frequency opposed to GOD (spiritually dead). We continue that way until we believe in Jesus Christ, at which point this enables the ministry of the HS to breath a new life into our soul.\

It is through that new life that we connect to GOD in time and that new life will excel and blossom fully in eternity.

This is why, when a Christian sins without washing themselves clean of the sin, they are walking in a form of death.

The only connection of intimacy they have with GOD in time, is interrupted.

/[Eph 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/3/s_1099003) Among them **we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh,** indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, just as the rest.

All Unbels qualify as enemies of the Cross of Jesus Christ, children of wrath, who are living a life of death in the cosmic system.\

It is a death sentence and an enemy status that continues and can only be broken by a new birth, and therefore there is an urgent necessity for the new birth, a spiritual birth has to occur.

The new birth breaks the Adamic curse of a spiritual death.

 REPEAT

When we surrender to the power and plan of GOD at the moment of Common Grace, when the gospel is presented and understandable. There is a supernatural momentary event, of Efficacious Grace that brings us into eternal security along with 39 other grace gifts.

[Eph 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/4/s_1099004) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

[Eph 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/5/s_1099005) even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

[/Eph 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/6/s_1099006) and **raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him** in the heavenly *places* **in Christ Jesus**,

True spirituality is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Only when you are in union with HIM can you be assured of eternal security, removed from the spiritual death sentence commanded in Gen 2:17.\

[Eph 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/7/s_1099007) so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

The ages to come speak to a future dispensation (1,000 years) and then into eternity.

/God wants us to be intimate with Him. HIS desire is for all of us to accept life as His precious children, yet free will becomes the issue in the temporal life. He therefore established a perfect plan in eternity past;

Jhn 3:16 For **God so loved the world**, that **He gave his only begotten Son**, so that **everyone who believes upon Him will not perish, but have eternal life.**\

[Eph 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/8/s_1099008) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

[Eph 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/2/9/s_1099009) not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Even with our mustard seed of faith in a moment of time we are still helpless and hopeless creatures unable to achieve salvation. It is the ministry of God the HS in Efficacious Grace that breaths new life into our soul and connects us to TLJC into eternal security.

Free will ignites positive volition, which is all the justice system of God demands. A positive thought in a moment of time directed at HIS precious SON.

Everything has been legally satisfied by the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual death is a fact of human life.

To ignore spiritual death means you consider God and HIS plan a lie.

In the end, the Unbeliever stands on their own truth, their own merits and righteousness and that will lead them into an everlasting life of separation from GOD – the Lake of Fire.

There is only one truth – truth is not relative, it is singular.

/1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned—\

Spiritual death is not only separation from God but it is the penalty of sin, and it is total and complete, approved in eternity past by the Divine Judgment of God.

/Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Physical death is not the penalty of sin and it does not have anything to do with the penalty of sin.\

Physical death is related to the fact that each of us are born flesh and blood creatures.

That is a temporal housing and a temporal condition.

There will be a time that humanity and this world in the current condition will be transformed and never return to this condition.