



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “The Power of A Seed: A New Testament Shaped Life”

Ps. Rice Brooks – 11/11/2018

#### WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What's the hardest thing you have intentionally engaged in? Work-out, studies, job? What motivated you to press on?
- What are the most encouraging words somebody has told you? What made them so significant?
- Which passage is your favorite in Scripture? Why?

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways... Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” (James 1:2 -27, ESV)

## **WORD (10-15 minutes)**

**Sermons can be heard online at [bethelbrentwood.org/media](http://bethelbrentwood.org/media).**

James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote this letter to believers about righteous living in an adulterous, evil, hostile culture. James encourages his readers to live out their faith, being doers and not just hearers of the word.

**What you focus your attention on will be the single most important factor in terms of the kind of life you live.**

### **I. Immerse yourself in Scripture.**

The more we immerse ourselves in the New Testament, the more chance we have of living a New Testament life. If you spend little time thinking about the New Testament, your life won't resemble anything like what is pictured in the New Testament.

### **II. Rejoice in what God is doing in your life through the difficulties**

Every human will face sufferings - believers know the purpose of trials. It is not that we rejoice over difficulties, but it means that the problems do not ultimately shape our lives, but God's perspective does shape our lives as we depend more and more upon him. Verses 5-8 do not mean that we don't know what the doubts are – it means that faith has overwhelmed the doubts.

### **III. Remember the power of a seed (words) – both positive and negative.**

We are constantly giving birth to either sin or righteousness. When we speak the word of truth to others, God births righteousness in them.

Verses 22-27 give us the process to let the seed of the Word germinate in our heart and produce the kind of life that lives a life shape by God's standard and not the world's.

- Hear.
- Look Intently – Fixed attention rewires our brain.
- Be doers of the Word. The quicker we respond in obedience, the better the word sticks in our heart.

God wants to showcase a people that are not full of anger, wrath, and the political rancor of the day- but a people full of grace and mercy, focused on serving the needy and giving birth to righteousness everywhere they go.

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- What/ who is the greatest influence on your life? Friends, media, music?
- What steps can you take to be more disciplined in getting the Word of God into your heart?
- What part of the passage of James 1 is the one you need to live out in your life at this point in time?

## **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Pray that the Lord helps you to be disciplined in the study of his Word
- Pray that God will use you to sow seeds of righteousness, to speak life-giving words to others.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to see the end result of your sufferings so you can rejoice in them.