

Grace Bible Chapel

Grace Women's Study – Lesson 21

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

James 5:12 – Let your yes be yes and your no be no

Key Verse: 12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment..

PRAYER!!!

Introduction: We come **James 5:12** seeing that James has already in the first 11 verses admonished us not to be living for the things of this world (being futile endeavors) and has also given exhortation that our true nature will be known by our speech and endurance in the Lord.

James 5:1-6 where James presented a warning about materialism. James by the Holy Spirit has shown us that reliance upon wealth (mammon) is futile. It provides at best a temporary happiness living for the pleasure of this life and causes all manner of division and abuse. The pursuit of these things prompts a futile way of life and futile way of thinking that in actuality is apart from the teaching of the Lord.

James 5:7-11 = In verses 5-11 James still under inspiration admonishes us to be patient in the Lord, to be strengthened in the ways of the Lord and exhorts as well not to be complaining and condemning of one another. We are called to be testimonies (examples) of endurance in the Lord in the midst of many trials and tribulations (with Job as our example) understanding that we are to call upon Him who is full of compassion and mercy understanding that He is able to save to the uttermost.

Knowing these things James continues in verse 12 to admonish us in how we are to walk in this world and how we are to be recognized even by our speech. Our word as binding as an oath sworn to the Lord.

James 5:12 **But above all** (greek propantonde = supremely important, of paramount concern, of chief significance to understand = not just a casual observation of something good to do), my brethren (united in a bond of affection), do not swear (direct imperative prohibiting swearing or taking an oath, that is invoking a higher power or person **to validate a statement**), either by heaven (implying before God himself) or by earth (by God's creation) or with any other oath (any other form of solemn affirmation regarding a place, person, or even one's own self); but (instead) your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, (positive instruction = simple straightforward, affirmation = needing no other enforcement to make it true, indicating the plain spoken word of the believer requires no other reinforcement to make it true) so that you may not fall under (incur serious spiritual peril, potentially by dishonoring the Lord by casual insincere speech lacking integrity) judgment. **(Leviticus 19:12, Numbers 30:2, Deuteronomy 23:23, Hebrews 6:16, Genesis 24:3, Genesis 26:28-29)"**

The new testament teaching by Christ and here is James concludes that each word that we speak should be held in such regard to integrity and honesty that it would be considered as if we were swearing by the name of the Lord (which was considered the highest of oaths nothing more stringent than giving our word as unto the Lord and to be considered absolutely binding). Yet Christ himself and James here reiterating the concept is that “EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM OUR MOUTHS should be considered to carry the same significance/importance”. Because it declares what is in our heart! **(Matt 5:34-37, James 5:9, Psalm 15:4, Romans 6:4, Matthew 12:34, Matthew 15:18)**

Conclusion: Any word we speak should be held to be as if it is an oath or covenant made before the Lord = honest and truthful conveying the integrity having been born in our heart that has been changed by God = We are ABLE by His working to walk and speak in integrity because of the new heart given by the Lord.