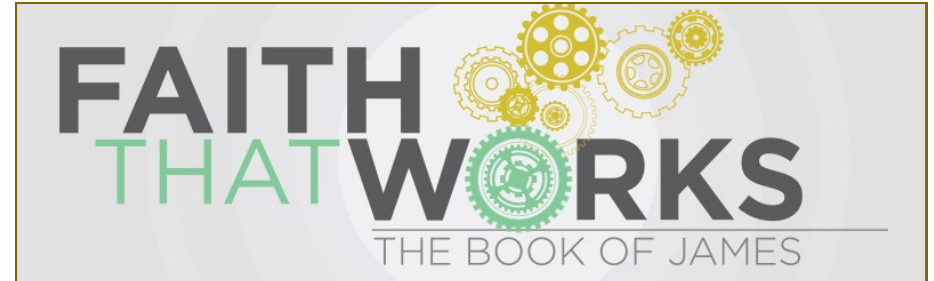


**Reflection Questions:** In what situations am I most susceptible to lying? Why? How can I guard against this? Do I struggle with speaking the truth? How does the Lord's compassion & mercy motivate me toward remaining steadfast in my character, especially in light of His soon coming? Do I speak the truth at all times? Why or why not?

How can I pray for others and our church this week?



#25 Talking Truth (5:12)

*Sermon* Notes September 8, 2019

### Quotes to Ponder

*How believers speak was of grave concern to James since it manifest what is in their hearts; it is a test of living faith.... The heart is a storehouse and people's words reveal what they keep there.*

John MacArthur

*Your speech should be able to be received at face value because of the character of your heart, not because of some attached oath.*

Paul David Tripp

*If I must take towering oaths to buttress my speech, I admit paradoxically that my speech is unreliable without such support.*

Luke Timothy Johnson

*I always try—I think I do—to be truthful. All the same I tell a great many petty lies, e.g. things that mean one thing to myself though another to other people. But I do not think lightly of it.*

George MacDonald

*The avoidance of one small fib...may be a stronger confession of faith than a whole 'Christian philosophy' championed in lengthy, forceful discussion.*

*Whenever I utter the formula "I swear by God" ... I am saying that people are expecting me to lie from the start.*

Helmut Thielicke

*Societies ultimately collapse when too many people lose their verbal integrity, so Christians must remain at the forefront of those whose word can be trusted unquestioningly.*

Craig L. Blomberg

*You can't help a liar. As long as a liar is telling lies, you cannot trust anything he says. It's like the old riddle, "If a liar says he's telling the truth, can you believe him?"*

Anonymous

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you?  
Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. How does *James 5:12* fit in with what comes before? After?

3. When do we cross the line between being polite (but not totally truthful out of love) and deceptive?

4. Read *1 Corinthians 3:10-15* & *2 Corinthians 5:10-11*. Do we sufficiently fear the coming judgment of our works? Should we fear it? Why?

5. Does James prohibit all oath taking? Explain.

6. Write out the similarities between these two passages.  
*Matthew 5:34-37*                      *James 5:12*

7. Considering *Matthew 5:34-37* and *James 5:12*, what is the most basic principle you can apply concerning your speech?

8. Do you sometimes try to make your promises more convincing with phrases like, *no really!* or *cross my heart!* or *cross my heart!* or *I'm not kidding, trust me?* How does *James 5:12* speak to this?

9. Do James and Jesus prohibit all oaths? Explain.

10. If all oaths are wrong, how do you explain the following verses?  
*Matthew 26:63-64* —                      *Hebrews 6:13-17* —

*2 Corinthians 1:23* —                      *Hebrews 7:21* —

*Galatians 1:20* —

11. What happens to the witness of the church when Christians are deceitful?

12. What has James taught about our speech?  
*James 1:19, 26* —                      *James 4:11, 13* —

*James 2:12* —                      *James 5:12* —

*James 3:1-12* —

13. What do the following verses teach about our speech?  
*Psalms 12:2-4* —                      *Matthew 12:34* —

*Psalms 116:11* —                      *Ephesians 4:15, 25, 29* —

*Proverbs 6:16-19* —                      *Colossians 3:9* —