



REVIEW: Living Faith Speaks with Grace (James 4:11–12)

James now moves from our posture toward God to our posture toward others—especially in how we speak about fellow believers. Humility before God must reshape how we speak, removing the kind of judgment that tears down and replacing it with the kind of discernment that builds up.

Read:

Take time to slowly read these passages:

- **James 4:11–12** – Do not speak evil of one another; God is the only Lawgiver and Judge.
- **Ephesians 4:29** – Speak only what is helpful for building up.
- **Romans 14:4** – Who are you to judge another’s servant?
- **Matthew 7:1–5** – Remove the log from your own eye before helping your brother.
- **Galatians 6:1** – Restore in a spirit of gentleness.

Reflect:

- Where have I spoken about someone in a way that damaged their reputation rather than built them up?
- Have I ever passed judgment on someone’s worth, motives, or future as though I knew the whole story?
- How do I respond when someone brings correction to me—am I defensive or teachable?
- Do I correct others with humility, love, and a goal of restoration—or with pride and a goal of winning?
- In what areas have I judged others on matters of personal preference rather than God’s clear commands?
- Does my speech, both in person and online, reflect the gentleness and humility of Christ?

Remember:

1. When you feel the urge to speak critically about someone, ask: ***Will this build them up or tear them down?***
2. When you see sin in another’s life, approach with the same grace you would want extended to you.
3. When correction is needed, let Scripture and the Spirit—not your ego—guide your words.
4. When you’re tempted to judge based on personal preference, remember Romans 14 and ***leave room for grace.***
5. When speaking online, remember that typed words carry the same moral weight as spoken words.

Apply:

Let your words this week be shaped by humility before God and love for people. Choose one or two tangible actions:

- Speak directly to someone if there is an issue—instead of speaking about them to others.
- Spend a day intentionally refraining from any critical speech about others.
- If you have spoken harmfully about someone, take a step toward making it right.
- Invite one trusted believer to speak correction into your life when they see something concerning.
- Use your words this week to intentionally encourage and build up someone who is struggling.
- Audit your online activity—remove anything that could be a stumbling block or misrepresent Christ.

Pray:

• **Confession:**

“Father, I confess that I have used my words to judge, criticize, or tear down others. I have acted as though I were the judge instead of You. Forgive me for misrepresenting Your heart.”

• **Dependence:**

“Thank You for showing me grace when I deserved judgment. Help me speak with the same gentleness and truth that You have spoken over me in Christ.”

• **Surrender:**

“I yield my tongue and my heart to You. Let my speech reflect humility, restore the broken, and glorify Your name. Make my words instruments of grace this week.”

PREVIEW: Living Faith Yields to God’s Will (James 4:13–17)

James will now address our posture toward the future. Planning is not wrong—but living as if we control our future is. The mark of humility is a willingness to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

Read ahead:

- **James 4:13–17** – Do not boast about tomorrow; life is a vapor.
- **Proverbs 16:9** – The heart plans, but the Lord directs.
- **Luke 12:16–21** – The rich fool who planned without God.

Think Ahead:

- How do I typically make plans—prayerfully or presumptuously?
- What would it look like for God’s will to truly guide my schedule, priorities, and goals?