Celebrate Freedom: Give Me Liberty or Give Me….
James 1:13-25
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Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

James 1:13-25:[13] When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; [14] but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. [15] Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. [16] Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. [17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. [18] He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. [19] My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, [20] because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. [21] Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. [22] Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. [23] Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror [24] and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [25] But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it-- not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it-- they will be blessed in what they do. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ the battle of the mind

_____singularity: Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything…adrift at sea…. James 1:6-7 (MSG)

_____ blessing: Blessed is the person who endures temptation and doesn't give up or give in! They will experience the authentic power of God's promise to those who love him and will receive the crown of life. James 1:12 (JOT)

2. _____ the liberating power of God

_____ new birth: Lust conceives sin…sin when fully mature gives birth to death! Don't go astray…this is the Father of lights…God desires to birth us by the Word of truth to be the harvest of new life! James 1:16-18 (JOT)

_____ growth: So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. James 1:21 (MSG)

_____: But the one who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes his attention there, and does not become a forgetful listener but one who lives it out– he will be blessed in what he does. James 1:25 (NET)

3. _____ our sustainability

_____ worship: Fix the eyes of your heart on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith! Who for the joy of our redemption, endured the cross, disregarded the disgrace…so we will not grow weary or give up! Hebrews 12:2, 3b (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

Where are you looking today? Are you tired and discouraged? Has despair captured your heart and drowning your mind in darkness? Jesus says: *"I am the light of the world! The person who follows me will not walk in the darkness of sin, but they will have the light of new life!"* Let this light into your heart by asking for God's help! The evil one wants you to continue into the darkness, God deeply desires for you to be reborn to this powerful truth: Jesus is Lord! Ask him to help you find your way out of the darkness into the light of hope and peace! This week, read James 1 and Isaiah 55 to empower the Spirit to show the liberating power of God in your life!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; MSG: The Message; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; NET: The New English Translation