

James 4:11 (KJV) Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

If that sounds confusing, listen from the NLT:

James 4:11 (NLT) Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.

3. The reason for this, in my opinion, is the same sin we find in the Garden, before the Flood, in ancient Israel, in the time of Jesus, and in the Church: **Pride**.
 - One of the hardest things we must learn to do as disciples of Jesus is submit ourselves to His leadership and Lordship.
 - The fight is real. From birth, because of our sin nature, we want to do what we want to do. Paul said, "... I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway." *Romans 7:18-19 (NLT)*
 - The nature of discipleship however, is to become more like Jesus, who continually submits himself to the father.
 - Inwardly, we groan at the thought of submitting ourselves to God at times because we think His will might not match ours. But beloved, that is the point: we must learn to say, like Jesus, "Not my will, but thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (*Matt 6:10*)
4. The Scriptures are absolutely filled with admonitions against pride, this most chief of sins:

From the Garden...

Genesis 3:6 (KJV) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Through the Tower of Babel:

Genesis 11:4 (KJV) And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Through prideful Kings like Saul, who instead of fearing God enough to carefully obey Him, built a memorial to himself:

1 Samuel 15:12 (ESV) And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal.

Through the Wisdom literature:

Proverbs 16:18-19 (KJV) Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

To warnings for the Church!

1 Timothy 3:6 (KJV) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1 John 2:15-17 (KJV) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- Jonathan Edwards said, *“The first and worst cause of errors that abound in our day and age is spiritual pride. This is the main door by which the devil comes into the hearts of those who are zealous for the advancement of Christ. It is the chief inlet of smoke from the bottomless pit to darken the mind and mislead the judgment. Pride is the main handle by which he has hold of Christian persons and the chief source of all the mischief that he introduces to clog and hinder a work of God. Spiritual pride is the main spring or at least the main support of all other errors. Until this disease is cured, medicines are applied in vain to heal all other diseases.”*

From Pride to Trust

Friend, my overall message today is simple. You can trust God. I'm learning that one of the ways we stay trapped by pride is a lack of trust. Our flesh says that if we really yield to God, we won't look like, sound like or be what we desire. Subtly, we might believe that God's will can result in our humiliation, or our devaluation.

Let us fight these carnal instincts! Here are three reasons to engage the sneaky sin of pride which wars against our souls...

1. He is God. You can trust Him.

- The LORD reigns and is clothed in majesty! (Ps 93:1) Before the mountains were brought forth, He is from everlasting to everlasting (Ps 90:2) and declares the end from the beginning...

Isaiah 46:9-10 (KJV) Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

- There is nothing too hard for Him! *Jeremiah 32:17 (KJV) Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*
- He created everything and rules over everything! (Gen 1:1; Col 1:16) He does not change! (Heb 13:8) Everything He does is totally and completely righteous! (Ps 18:30, 19:7-10)
- Even the difficult things He allows He works together for the good of His people!

- He is trustworthy!

Psalms 91:2 (KJV) I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Proverbs 30:5 (KJV) Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Proverbs 3:5-8 (KJV) Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

2. God loves you and demonstrated His love by sending His Son. You can trust Him.

- Scripture declares: *Romans 5:8-11 (KJV) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*
- He loves you! In Christ, you are redeemed. You are justified, sanctified, and adopted.
- He has forgiven all of your sins, past, present, and future. They are cast as far from you as east is from west.
- *Romans 8:35-39 (KJV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

3. In Christ you are promised a heavenly inheritance. You can trust Him.

- *1 Peter 1:3-5 (KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- *John 14:1-3 (KJV) Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

No matter what happens in this life; no matter what the outcome of your child-like trust brings, no one can snatch you from His hand (John 10:28-29). You are being kept by the power of God! YOU CAN TRUST HIM.

A Few Questions to Close:

1. Have you trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins?
2. Do you struggle with trusting Him in areas of your life? Which ones?
3. What do you plan to do to increase your child-likeness and trust in our great God?

Amen!