

# Growing Towards Christian Maturity

## *Lessons learned from the book of James*

### Lesson Four: **Mature Christians Don't OVERREACT To Things That Happen To Them & Around Them**

Let's read James 1:19-21

These verses begin with the word WHEREFORE, which literally means in the Greek: *thus therefore*. It is as if God is saying:

SINCE you KNOW . . .

- *That you should exercise joy and patience in your trials*
- *That trials should work your patience, not your passions*
- *That you are to ask God for wisdom when you need it*
- *That God exalts those that are poor*
- *That temptation comes from Satan and our own lust*
- *That God is the giver of every good and perfect gift*

THEN you should KNOW that God does NOT want you to OVERREACT to things that happen to you or around you in your life!

What are the signs (in James 1:19-21) that we are overreacting to the situations of life around us?

1. We are slow to hear
2. We are quick to speak
3. We are quick to wrath
4. We take matters in our own hands
5. We have a desire to give up obeying God and doing right
6. We give in to the lust of our flesh and allow ourselves to be tempted to sin
7. We fill our minds with foolish thoughts and ideas given to us by carnal Christians & unsaved people
8. We reject the truths of God's Word
9. We get depressed because we feel taken advantage of and we are not in control

Matthew Henry comments on these verses in this way:

*Instead of blaming God under our trials, let us open our ears and hearts to learn what he teaches by them. And if men would govern their tongues, they must govern their passions. The worst thing we can bring to any dispute, is anger. Here is an exhortation to lay apart, and to cast off as a filthy garment, all sinful practices. This must reach to sins of thought and affection, as well as of speech and practice; to every thing corrupt and sinful. We must yield ourselves to the word of God, with humble and teachable minds. Being willing to hear of our faults, taking it not only patiently, but thankfully. It is the design of the word of God to make us wise to salvation; and those who propose any mean or low ends in attending upon it, dishonour the gospel, and disappoint their own souls. (Matthew Henry Commentary)*

Mature Christian believers don't OVERREACT to the things that happen around them or to them because they understand that EVERYTHING that happens to them and around them PROVIDES an opportunity for them to glorify God to the world around them.

How are you handling the opportunities that God is giving you to glorify Him in? With maturity, or immaturity? It's something to think about.