

# SERMON OUTLINE James 5:12

Keep Your Word Always

---

## **THE ORIGIN OF JAMES'S COMMAND**

### **ABOVE ALL**

### **KEEP YOUR WORD ALWAYS**

*Stated Negatively*

*Stated Positively*

*Practically Speaking*

### **JAMES'S REASONING**

*Explicitly*

*Implicitly*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

## MAIN POINT

---

The simplest way to communicate James's main point in v.12 is this: Keep your word always because that is what God does and there is condemnation for those who don't. My main hope and prayer, therefore, is that all of us would grow in our love for God and His perfect word-keeping, and that our words would increasingly reflect that.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Has our time in James helped you to make sure to apply God's Word and not merely study it? Can you share an example?
3. Has anyone ever broken a serious promise they made to you? What did that feel like?
4. Does the fact that James's command came from Jesus, and the Father before that, help you to appreciate its importance? Does the fact that James said that this command was "above all" help you appreciate its importance? Does the fact that there is condemnation for those who do not obey James's command help you appreciate its importance? Does the fact that God keeps His word always help you appreciate the importance of James's command?
5. What kinds of things have you promised to do? Why did you make those promises? Did you keep them?
6. Have you ever made a promise in the name of someone/thing else? Why did you do that? What difference did it make?
7. Are you known for keeping your word? Are you ever purposely slippery in how you give your word so that you can't be held accountable for it? Are people genuinely surprised when you don't do what you say you will do?
8. Can you see the connection between James's command for us to keep our word and the gospel?
9. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

---

10. Keep your word...always! If you have failed to do so recently, confess it as sin and tell the truth.
11. Pick one of Pastor Dave's five practical thoughts to focus on this week (Never lie. Say "yes" and "no" to right things. Don't exaggerate. Do what you say, as you said you'd do it. say "yes" and "no".).
12. Spend some time reflecting on a few specific promises of God—some that He has already kept and some that He will.
13. Share the good news that God has promised to forgive all who will trust in Jesus and that God always keeps His promises.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

## PRAYER POINTS

---

15. Adoration. Praise God for being a perfect promise-keeper. Praise God that His Word never fails. Praise God that He is the Truth. Praise God that He is merciful and kind.
16. Confession. Confess any lies you've told or promises you've broken. Confess any wishy-washyness that you've used to avoid accountability. Confess any exaggerations you've made when giving your word.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for forgiveness of all our sins in Jesus. Thank God for making the gospel certain by His promise keeping. Thank God for the letter of James and all its clear commands. Thank God for the empowering work of His Spirit.
18. Supplication. Ask God to heal anyone who has been hurt by your oath-breaking. Ask God to make us a truth-filled church. Ask God to save a non-Christian friend or family member. Ask God to strengthen someone specific in their faith.