



Series Life Tools

Passage James 1:16-20

Title Successful Living

Speaker: Dave Menard 05/07/2017

- **Discussion Starter:** How do you think we are supposed to apply the life tools we learned for successful living from this sermon to our relationship with God?

Knowing That We are Beloved Members of God's Family (James 1:16-19a; John 1:12-13)

- We are warned not to be deceived in James 1:16, and in verse 17, we are reminded that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights. Verse 17 continues on to say that God has no variation or shadow of turning. Why is this fact so important to us as the beloved members of God's family?
- The first part of James 1:18 says "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth". We see here that God of His own will chooses to set His love upon us and adopt us into His family. What else do we see about God's character and this adoption process as we read the verses in John 1:12-13?
- As Christians living in today's world, what is the meaning of "that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures"?

Swift To Hear (James 1:19)

- What are some of the necessary tools that a good listener must possess?
- We learned that one of the keys of very successful people in the world is that they are good listeners. As Christians what should our main purpose be for being good listeners and how might that differ from the "successful business person"?

Thorns That Hinder Hearing (James 1:19-20; Proverbs 10:19, 18:13; 14:29; 15:18)

- **1> Talking Too Much** What warning do we see in Proverbs 10:19 about talking too much? Is there a certain area of your life where you tend to catch yourself talking too much? Share with the group your experiences.
- **2> Speaking Too Quickly** According to Proverbs 18:13 what are some of the ramifications of speaking too quickly and cutting people off midstream in a conversation? Why do you think we do this?
- **3> Being Easily Agitated** According to Proverbs 14:29 and 15:18 what are the benefits or liabilities of the person who is either under control or easily agitated? How does this impact our spiritual growth as Christians? What do you think is at the root of this agitation?