

Responding

Words Matter

Principle #1

The _____ Of Faith

James 1:12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. **13** And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. **14** Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. **15** These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. **16** So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. (NLT)

_____ Word

Romans 12:1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. **2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (NLT)

John 1:1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He existed in the beginning with God. **3** God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. **4** The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (NLT)

James 1:18 He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession [*we became a kind of firstfruit of his creatures*]. **19** Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. **20** Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. **21** So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. (NLT)

_____ Word

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. **13** Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. *(NLT)*

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. **17** God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. *(NLT)*

Principle #2

The _____ Of Faith

James 1:22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. **23** For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. **24** You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. **25** But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. *(NLT)*

_____ Word

_____ Word

Matthew 12:34 "You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. **35** A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. **36** And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. **37** The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you." *(NLT)*

Luke 6:43 "A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. **44** A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. **45** A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. **46** "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?" *(NLT)*

Principle #3

The _____ Of Faith

James 1:26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. (NLT)

_____ Word

- Decieved: ἀπατάω; (Greek - apataó [ap-at-ah'-o]); to deceive; delude; trick, fool; cheat; is often sensual (personal desires, pleasure; (properly) deceive, using tactics like seduction, giving distorted impressions /apataō ("lure into deception") emphasizes the means to bring in error (delusion).
 - ▶ Conveys the act of misleading, whether by deliberate fraud or by subtle distortion of reality. Its three New Testament appearances trace a spectrum that runs from external deception (Ephesians 5:6) through self-deception (James 1:26) to the primal deception that opened the door to human sin (1 Timothy 2:14). In each setting, deception is presented as diametrically opposed to God's character and redemptive purpose.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. (NLT)

Psalms 119:133 Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil. (NLT)

Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words. (NLT)

_____ Word

Matthew 6:1 "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. **2** When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. **3** But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." (NLT)

_____ Word

Romans 10:9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. (NLT)