



Main point - Be notably holy because this is what God the Father is like

1. God's people bridle their tongue
2. God's people care for the afflicted
3. God's people are undefiled by the rebellion that is all around them

#1 :

“James often speaks of the danger of deceiving oneself (1:16,22,26). This quandary has bothered philosophers since before Christ. To deceive someone entails deliberately misleading that person, so a deceiver must know that what the victim is being led to believe is false. But how, then, is it possible to mislead oneself, since one already knows that the error being perpetrated is untrue? Yet it happens with astonishing regularity.”

Dan McCartney

James

#2 :

Matt. 5:44, 48

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust... You must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#3 :

Prov. 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

#4 :

Matt. 12:34

You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

#5:

“There is a war for each of our hearts that is taking place in every circumstance, relationship, and location of daily life. It is a war about what kind of glory will attract my attention, command my affection, and control my behavior...When I begin to struggle with the Lord’s rule in midlife, what is glorious no longer looks glorious, what is wise no longer looks wise, and what is loving doesn’t seem loving. Because I am not amazed at God’s glory, I will be all the more tempted to find life, peace, happiness, security, pleasure, identity, etc., in the shadow-glories of the world around me. This can mean eating too much or spending too much, or it can mean struggling more than ever before with lust. This can mean buying a sports car or taking a lavish vacation. Or it can mean a subtle migration away from a God-centered life into a functional worldliness. Typically this person will still hold onto the external habits of the faith, but love of the world has replaced love of God as that which gives their life shape and direction.”

Paul Tripp

Lost in the Middle: Midlife and the Grace of God

#6:

“(One of the leading features / distinctive principles of true religion is) the importance which it attaches to the onward and visible work of the Holy Ghost in the life of man...The true grace of God is a thing that will always make itself manifest in the conduct, behavior, tastes, ways, choices and habits of him who has it. It is not a dormant thing...To tell a man he is “born of God,” or regenerated, while he is living in carelessness or sin, is a dangerous delusion... Where there is the grace of the Spirit there will always be more or less fruit of the Spirit...where there is nothing seen, there is nothing possessed.”

J.C. Ryle