

# Duplicating Ourselves

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### Giving birth

- One of the greatest gifts we have in this life is the gift of children. Self duplication is a gift from our creator. God was able to duplicate himself in the flesh by sending Jesus Christ in the flesh.
- Just as God created a flesh version of his son, we are able to create a flesh version of ourselves by bearing natural children. This was God's purpose for us to be fruitful and multiply, meaning, for us to bear children and duplicate ourselves.
- Although everyone will not have physical children, the bible teaches that we are able to give birth to spiritual children when we win them with the word of God. This is not a child in the same sense of having natural children, but Paul referred to Timothy and those he gave spiritual birth to as his children. They were birthed into the faith by his teaching and by his example, so they were a type of duplication of himself. **1Cor. 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.**

### First Fruits

- The biblical term "first fruits" referred to the first portion of the harvest given to God, a foretaste of that which was to come. **James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**
- When James spoke of these first fruits to the early church, he was really saying that they were the first harvest and there would be many birthed out of their spiritual works. In other words he was encouraging them to forsake dead works and create good works that can be duplicated by those that come after them.
- When we have children, they become the first fruits of our natural harvest and eventually give birth to their own natural harvest as well. But James is talking about spiritual things. He is

saying that God's plan is constructive not destructive. Lust and sin are apart of the enemies plan, and is meant for death, but God is not into death, but rather giving life.

- **James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.** The good and perfect gift is from above and he has no dark side. What God wants is what he wanted in the beginning. He created male and female and told them to be fruitful and multiply. James is teaching us that we are to give birth to spiritual children as well. Winning others into the faith should be a priority for all believers.



### Positioned for soul winning

- James gives the formula for positioning ourselves as first fruit. The early church was the beginning of the church age, so they had to make sure that they were in position to duplicate themselves.
- **James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:** Since the word was being given that would change their generations, they had to develop an ability to hear. If we can't receive the word, we cannot help ourselves. And if we cannot allow the word to change us, how will it ever win others?
- A continual talker cannot hear what anyone else says and by the same token will not hear when God speaks to him. So James is saying be slow to speak or wait and assess your words before you let them out. If you cannot do this you will live a life of regret.
- **James 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.** Slow to anger is an attitude that believers must adapt because a wrathful heart births vengeance not forgiveness. If we are to win others to Christ through the forgiving power of God, how can we be vengeful? Our example of forgiveness will birth an atmosphere of forgiveness and birth others into the faith through forgiveness.
- Finally, James says that in order to be positioned for self duplication, we must lay aside moral filth. **James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart**

**all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.** We must forsake sin and allow God's word to fill our hearts rather than the pleasures of the flesh. Meekness is not weakness, but it is a teachable attitude that will allow God's word to saturate our being and change our lives. Once we have done these things, we have matured to a place where we can give birth to others spiritually.

### Summary

Children can't birth children. A person has to reach a certain age so their body can mature to a point of child bearing in the natural. James is teaching us the same principle but pertaining to spiritual child bearing. If we are to duplicate ourselves by giving birth to others spiritually, then we must mature to a child bearing age spiritually. God has called us to be first fruits of a lineage of children that will be birthed through us, so we must position ourselves so that we can duplicate the great work that God has done in us.

**1Cor. 4:14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.**

