



# THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

## THIS WEEK AT THE

- ▶ **WEDNESDAY**  
THF Students - Worship & Small Groups  
**7:00pm-8:30pm ~ Doors Open at 6:30pm**
- ▶ **THURSDAY**  
THF Men - Bible Study & Fellowship  
**6:30am-7:30am**

## UPCOMING AT THE

- ▶ **MAY 19**  
Senior Sunday
- ▶ **MAY 26**  
ONE Worship Service - 9:30am

# May 12, 2024

Please continue to check all of our social media outlets and our website for updates to weekly activities and Sunday Services.

[www.theheightsfellowship.org](http://www.theheightsfellowship.org)

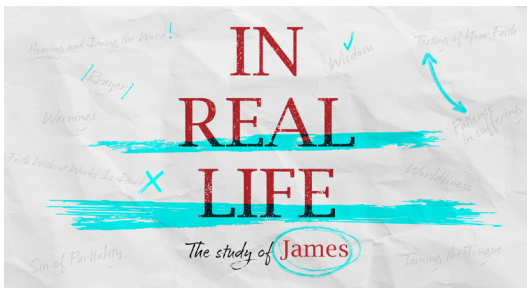
## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### May 5, 2024

<i>BUDGET GIVING:</i>	\$61,181.26
<i>BUDGET NEEDS:</i>	\$18,919.00

### YEAR TO DATE

<i>BUDGET GIVING:</i>	\$370,829.92
<i>BUDGET NEEDS:</i>	\$337,840.00



## THE SWEAR JAR

James 5:12

Next to not swearing at all, the second best thing is to keep one's oath; for by the mere fact of swearing at all, the swearer shows that there is some suspicion of his not being trustworthy.  
- Philo

James returns to a familiar theme: **HOW WE TALK/WHAT WE SAY**

*But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. James 5:12 esv*

**The Priority** *But above all...*

**James has mentioned out talk in EVERY chapter of the letter!**

**The point: Speech is a REVEALER of the heart! MATT 15:17-19**

*James 1:19 - be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry... (nlt)*

*James 1:26 - If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.*

*James 2:12 - So speak and so act, as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.*

*James 2:14 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? (esv)*

*James 3:2 - We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. (niv) cf 2-11*

*James 4:11 - Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. (nkj)*

**above all = pró pántoon** - above all things

not connected to vv7-11 in thought...in essence is a new **paragraph**

This is a **SINGULARLY IMPORTANT** concept

The genesis of oath-making/oath-taking

lies with the fact that people are innately **LIARS**! <sup>3 REASONS WE LIE</sup>

*"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. John 8:44*

*Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Hebrews 6:26 niv*

**COLOSSIANS 3:9** His point all along has been that **PROV 18:21 APPLIES**  
a redeemed **HEART** should produce redeemed **SPEECH**

Notes from The Heights

Series: In Real Life

**The Premise** - ...do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath...

**What it is NOT** -

**Obscene speech** Colossians 3:8

**Coarse talking** Ephesians 5:4

**Double-entendre** Ephesians 4:29

James is being specific: **THE TAKING OF OATHS TO ESTABLISH TRUTH**

**The Bible never FORBIDS Oaths**

The **PATRIARCHS** all took oaths appropriately Gen 21:25-31; 24:2-4; 26:26-31

**DAVID SWORE** 1 Sam 20:12-17; 2 Sam 21:7

The Israelite **LEADERSHIP** took an oath at Jericho Joshua 2:12-20

The entire **NATION** took oaths Josh 6:26; 2 Chron 5:14

God **REQUIRED** oaths Exodus 22:10-11; Numbers 5:19-22; Numbers 6:2ff

Even **GOD** swore oaths Hebrews 6:13-17; Luke 1:73; Acts 2:30

Even **JESUS** swore an oath Matthew 26:63-64

**THESE WERE ALL OATHS SWORN BY THE NAME OF GOD!**

The Jews of James' day had refined oath making into an artform full of

**CF MATT 5:33-37**

**LOOP HOLES**

**CF MATT 23:16-22**

The point **-ANYTHING THAT GOD TOUCHES ATTACHES HIM TO THE PROMISE**

This is the true essence of **TAKING THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN**

**CF LEVITICUS 19:12**

**The Prescription** - ...but let your yes be yes and your no be no...

*A man must lead a life which will gain more confidence in him than an oath ever can do. - Isocrates*

We have no need for swearing because -

- 1) Who we **ARE** in Jesus (Security)
- 2) What we **HAVE** in Jesus (Heirs)
- 3) Nothing I can do can **IMPROVE** my position in Heaven

**The Provocation** - that you may not fall under condemnation.

**condemnation = krisis** - sentencing to judgment

Note: **NEVER** used of a judgment of *believers*...always **UNBELIEVERS**

James is **not** saying if we take an oath wrongly we are not saved

*cf James 3:2*

He is saying a life laced with lies looks like it is **UNSAVED**

Notes from The Heights

Series: In Real Life

**LifeNotes**  
**Week of May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**What are some ways we ‘swear’ to convince people of our truthfulness today?**

**Credibility is a lot about reliability. In what ways are you tempted to compromise your integrity by going back on your word?**

**Contrast these. Why are some ‘sanctioned’ and some condemned?**

Genesis 21:25-31

1 Samuel 20:12-17

Joshua 9:3-13

2 Chronicles 15:10-15

Numbers 5:16-22

Judges 11:30-36

Matthew 23:16-22

Scottish Theologue, William Barclay, says, “The New Testament view is that every word is spoken in the presence of God and ought, therefore, to be true; and it would agree that the Christian must be known to be a man of such honour that it will be quite unnecessary ever to put him on oath.”

**Based on what James said in 5:12, what thing(s) in you life need to be adjusted to gain that level of integrity?**

**Prayer Requests –**