



DATE	December 2, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Bitter Envy
SERIES	Hearing and knowing what God says is only half of what it means to follow Him. We then need to apply what we know and act! Let's look at what James, the half brother of Jesus, says about giving Him authority in our lives, so we don't live halfheartedly.

Pastor David reminded us that there are 2 parts, or Half and Half, to following Jesus: **Hearing** and **Doing**. He inspired us to *hear* the wisdom of God when we find ourselves envying idols, things, or other people, and then *doing* something about it!

1. How is human, sinful envy different from God's righteous envy (Exodus 20:5, I Corinthians 11:2)?
2. Why is envy the great unwanted sin? In what ways is the sin of envy a 'hook with no bait' and why is it not pleasurable? Do you think that envy can turn into something good? Do you have any examples to share?
3. James 3:17 tells us how we can cure bitter envy in our lives. What does he tell us to do? How can you implement that in your own life?
4. Do you feel envy sometimes creeps into your thinking? In what possible ways does envy show up in our life, or what things may trigger us to envy others or the things that they have that we don't?
5. Pastor David told us that there are three ways to obtain wisdom from God: your priorities, parenting, and politics. Are there areas of your life that you need to examine and then make some changes? Is God jealous over something you are putting above Him in your life?
6. Do you or people around you place certain actions or thoughts as 'high priority' during the Christmas season, but 'put them on the back burner' after Christmas? Why does this happen? How can you avoid/change this habit in your own life?
7. Are you deceiving yourself about something in your life? Are you trying to justify or hide it? Pastor David told us that prayers will be hindered while there is sin in your life.

--What is your idol?

--What do you need to give up to God right now?

In closing, think about this quote on envy from American writer Harold Coffin, "***Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own.***"