Day 59

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. James 1:21 (ESV)

James identifies those to whom he is writing as “brothers” (see 5:7). What is the above verse designed to tell someone who is already a Christian? Doesn’t it describe what happens when a person is born again? The answer is “yes”, but it is also true that sanctification is a lifelong process. God is a practitioner of the art of “progressive revelation.” The Bible documents about 1,500 years of God’s progressive revelation of Himself. Progressive revelation also occurs in the life of the individual Christian. If a believer did not learn from reading the Bible, why do it? If there was nothing more to be learned, why listen to sermons? God not only progressively reveals more about Himself, He also reveals more about YOU to you. No one can change all of his or her sinful thoughts, desires, feelings and behaviors all at once. God knows what we are ready to deal with, and when. Jesus told His disciples: “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.” [John 16:12 (ESV)] When the Holy Spirit brings conviction about anything, do what James says above: repent and receive with meekness the Word of forgiveness. Write out a prayer to God thanking Him for what He has taught you so far, and ask Him for more revelation of His glory and goodness – and also of your own sins.