

James

Chapter One

The Person James

- One of the twelve disciples was named James but the author of James is not the same person.
- The author of James was the half brother of Jesus.
- “But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.”-Galatians 1:27
- Jude was also James’ and Jesus brother.
- “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James”-Jude 1:1

- Although the Catholic doctrine teaches that Mary didn’t have any other children after the birth of Jesus the Scriptures clearly refute this claim.
- “Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Josés, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?”-**Matthew 13:55-56;Mark 6:3**
- One of the amazing facts about Jesus’ brothers and sisters is that in spite of His life and witness during His time on earth they did not believe in Him.
- It is implied from **1 Corinthians 9:5**, that James was married: “Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?”

- “His brothers therefore said to Him, ‘Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world. For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”-John 7:3-5
- James came to believe in the Lord after the resurrection.
- “After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.”-**1 Corinthians 15:7**

- After his conversion James became an important figure in the early church. He stands out as a leader with Peter and Paul in importance.
- He became head of the church in Jerusalem.
- “But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, ‘Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren. And he departed and went to another place.’”-Acts 12:17
- James made a memorable sermon in regards to the Gentile converts in Acts 15, at the Jerusalem council that pleased the Apostles and Elders.-Acts 15:22

- “And after they had become silent, **James answered**, saying, ‘Men and brethren, listen to me: ‘Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things. Known to God from eternity are all His works. Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.’”-Acts 15:13-20

- It is interesting to observe how he introduces his epistle not with a lofty association with the Lord as his brother as Jude did but a lowly servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- This is a pretty humble opening for a man who was the brother of the Son of God.
- This demonstrates a humility that is rare.
- As far as we know James didn’t travel about but remained in Jerusalem all his life.
- James appears to have been a devout man who loved his Jewish heritage which was enhanced by his conversion to Jesus.

The Writing Of James

- James is considered to be the most Jewish book of the New Testament writings therefore it is thought it was written before the gospel had gone out to the Gentiles sometime around 45-50 A.D..
- James by not mentioning the Temple indicates that it probably had not been destroyed which means his epistle was written prior to the destruction of the Temple (70 A.D.).
- The Temple’s destruction would have been a major event for him since he was the leader of the church in Jerusalem.
- This letter written by a Jew to Jewish Christians and the style of writing is distinctly Jewish in its form. Thus, it is thoroughly Hebrew in tone and language.
- James’ letter deals with the external life of the believer more than any other New Testament book.

The Purpose Of The Letter

- James writes to encourage the twelve tribes that have been scattered abroad because of the severe persecution from the Romans.
- James writes to comfort them in the face of trials and temptations.
- James writes to correct the tendency of these Jewish believers to separate faith and works.
- James lets them know that to be a hearer of the word will result in **action** and **lifestyle**.
- James was fully persuaded that true faith is a faith lived in space and time to a world in need.

A Message To Jewish Believers

- “To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:”-**James 1:1**
- Many Jews had been scattered throughout the world as a direct result of the various exiles that Israel and Judah had experienced over the years. These Jewish settlements provided a good start to the church as it expanded around the world. Paul whenever he entered a city went to the local synagogue.
- The Gospel message went out first to the Jewish people

- “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”-**Acts 8:1,4**
- “Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, **preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.**”-**Acts 11:19**

- “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived in Salamis, they **preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.** They also had John as their assistant.”-**Acts 13:4-5**

Faith and Works

- “The major difference between Judaism and Christianity lies in the importance each religion attaches to faith and actions. In Judaism, God considers people’s actions to be more important than their faith; acting in accordance with biblical and rabbinic law is the Jews’ central obligation. As Christianity developed, however, it did away with most of these laws, and faith became its central demand.”- Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism, Prager and Telushkin
- James addresses the value of both faith and works and the importance of the two working together to bring light into the world.
- **Faith is a living reality founded in the call of God to walk towards the life God intended for believers in His revealed word.**

Key Themes Of James

- **Faith and Works:** Faith needs evidence, it is a Faith that works once being saved
- **The Joy of trials:** Trials are for the testing of faith which builds character and strength
- **Favoritism:** Treat one another with respect regardless of position or wealth
- **Watch your tongue:** The tongue is deadly, cursing man and blessing God in the same breath
- **Riches and Poverty:** There is a danger in using wealth to oppress the poor which is warned against in the Old Testament

Who Are The People Of Authentic Faith?

- James was concerned about the faith of believers.
- Many associated with Jesus or believed in Jesus but did not live, think, speak or act like Jesus.
- James says even demons believe in God. James was looking for believers who had partaken of Jesus and had a faith that was life changing.
- “Martin Luther felt that James stresses works contrary to the grand doctrine of justification by faith in Romans, that he felt called upon to champion. So he called James, ‘A right strawy Epistle, having no evangelical character’”. - Lockyer

A Test For Genuine Living Active Faith

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Trials:</u> Seek wisdom from God during trial and temptation or do you press forward on your own power.	1:2-12
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Sin:</u> Do you mourn sin and seek God for help.	1:13-18
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Doing The Word:</u> Listening and allowing the Word of God to impact life and the world.	1:19-27
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Love:</u> Seek to love people unconditionally.	2:1-13
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Good Works:</u> Faith lived out as evidence of faith.	2:14-26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Speaking:</u> Seek God in speech.	3:1-12
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Thoughts:</u> Thoughts directed by God.	3:13-18
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Peace Living:</u> Seek to be content with what God provides.	4:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Humility:</u> Seek humility that is generated from a relationship with God.	4:7-10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Law:</u> Recognize that the Law is perfect.	4:11-12

A Test For Living Genuine Active Faith		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Dependence</u> : Seek God for dependence in everyday living.	4:13-17
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wealth</u> : Don't let wealth rule life.	5:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Patience</u> : Endure life with patience waiting for the Lord's coming.	5:7-11
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Truthfulness</u> : Fulfill commitments that are agreed to.	5:12
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Prayer</u> : Pray for healing, forgiveness of sins and life's ups and downs.	5:13-18
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Care</u> : Care for others spiritual condition.	5:19-20

A Few Warnings

- Do not make this a legalistic code or think that this chart is the means of attaining salvation.
- It is easy for some to use James as a tool to condemn the faith of other people.
- If you fall short don't let others manipulate you with guilt because we all fall short on this journey. It is a maturing process not perfection of behaviors.

James 1:1

"James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:
Greetings."

Three Types Of Servants In Scripture

1. A servant who gets paid for his service
2. A Servant who does not get paid for his service
3. A Bond-servant: A servant who is set free but chooses to serve because of his love for his master

Exodus 21:5-6

- “But if the servant plainly says, ‘**I love my master**, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.”
- The word for “love” used here is a love that seeks intimacy and devotion.

Our Relationship With Jesus Is Seeded In Our Devotion To Him!

- You and I are free to leave if we choose.
- We can **keep our own sovereignty** over our lives or we can choose to stay with Christ in love and **let Him have sovereignty** in our lives
- This changes our journey from obligation to serve by willfully choosing.
- A journey born for a relationship with Jesus not enslaved to the religion of obligation (works).
- The things that we now do for the Lord is a by product of our love for Him.

John 14:15,23-24

- "If you **love Me**, keep My commandments....
- "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

Motive For Serving God

- Ancient Judaism is not what one would call a religion of salvation. This is perhaps the most fundamental misconception that informs the Christian view of ancient Judaism. With very few exceptions, Judaism does not focus its attention on personal salvation. Furthermore, Judaism does not articulate the issue of salvation as a question about whether one is saved by works or by faith. In fact, the idea that one follows the commandments because of the desire to attain rewards is often condemned. Performing God's commandments should be done out of love for God, not because one wishes to achieve salvation. An early rabbinic commentary on Deuteronomy offers this caution: 'To love the Lord thy God.'—Lest you should say, 'I shall study Torah so that I may be rich and so that I may be called Rabbi and so that I may receive a reward in the world to come, 'Scripture says, 'To love the Lord thy God.' All that you do, do only from love.'—Paul Was Not A Christian, Eisenbaum

TRUE SERVICE

IT COMES OUT OF A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, AND IS A LIFESTYLE GENERATED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S LOVE.—BREEDS HUMILITY

FALSE SERVICE

IT COMES OUT OF THE FLESH AND IS LOOKING FOR A REWARD, SO THAT IT CAN BOAST AND EXALT ITSELF.---BREEDS PRIDE

Believers Are In Love With Jesus

- We don't do the things of the Christian life and call ourselves Christian! Believers are in love with Jesus and our actions represent this love.
- However it seems at times we get this backwards and we believe as long as we are doing things for Jesus therefore we are loving him. It steals our joy because the doing becomes a burden.

James 1:2-3;12-15

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

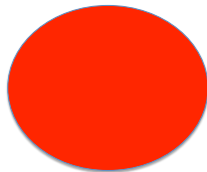
"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

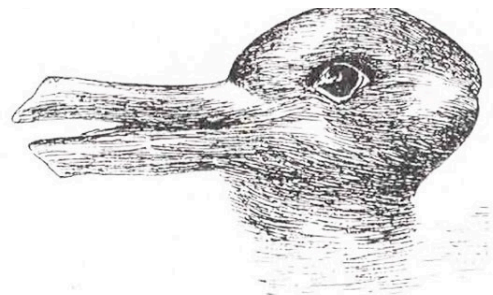
**JOY IS A STATE OF BEING THAT
COMES FROM BELIEVING IN JESUS**



What Do You See?



What Do You See?



The Fruit Of Trials

- The fruit of discipline though painful results in a greater understanding of Who God is.
- God is producing within us His ideas and thoughts within our lives.
- After a time of painful trial we see from God's perspective.
- If we understood everything that happens then we probably would not resent it. But we cannot see nor comprehend the big answers.
- It is to see that God is not cruel or unjust, it is that we cannot see or know the whole of the story.

Crisis Moments In Life Produce Moments

For Faith In The Lord

- I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD."-Psalm 27:13
- A personal relationship with the Lord builds confidence to face life.
- Those who trust in the Lord with all their heart have confidence to face the trials of life.
- A personal relationship with the Lord results in our fears fading in light of who He is.
- When problems in life abound we don't need to have more faith we need to seek God for who He is.

- "Wait in faith on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!"-Psalm 27:14
- "....who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, 'So shall your descendants be.' And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."-Romans 4:18-21

Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith Is A Gift From God

- **“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”- Romans 12:3**

Faith Is The Substance

- The word for substance in the original text is the word *“hypostasis”* which literally means “ground” or “foundation.” Some Bibles have assurance or confidence.
- The English word substance comes from the Latin “sub stans” which means “standing under”.
- Faith is the foundation of the things hoped for that is not in our possession.
- We all hope for many things but the question is, what is the foundation for our hope?
- Hope depends on the fact that God has spoken and revealed Himself to us through His Son Jesus.
- If God has not spoken there is nothing for us to believe about Him therefore there is nothing to hope for other than the vain imaginations of man.

Faith Is The Evidence

- The word in for “evidence” in the original text is *“elegchos”* which means a “a proof by which something is proved or tested”.
- Faith is the proof or conviction of things that are not seen.
- Do we believe what God has spoken? He has given to us exceeding great a precious promises. If we do, then faith is the foundation of all we hope for and the proof of what we heard but do not see.

- Noah believed what God had spoken being warned of things not seen yet. (v.7)
- Abraham believed what God had spoken and went out not knowing where he was going. (v.8)
- Abraham rejoiced do see the day of Jesus and saw it (John 8:56) but he saw it by faith through the promise spoken to him and saw it “afar off”. (v.13)
- Others were assured of the promises of God and saw them beyond their grasp but walked with God anyway. (v. 13)
- Moses believed God and refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter instead suffered affliction “as seeing Him Who is invisible”. (v.27)

Faith's Accomplishment

- Faith sees beyond this world into the next.
- Faith puts us in a position to trust God and His plan for our lives no matter the consequences.
- Faith brings meaning and context to this world and all its trials and tribulations.
- Faith is to hope in God's grace to heal us and take us home to heaven.
- Faith is confidence and assurance that we are not saved by our behaviors but His work upon the cross.

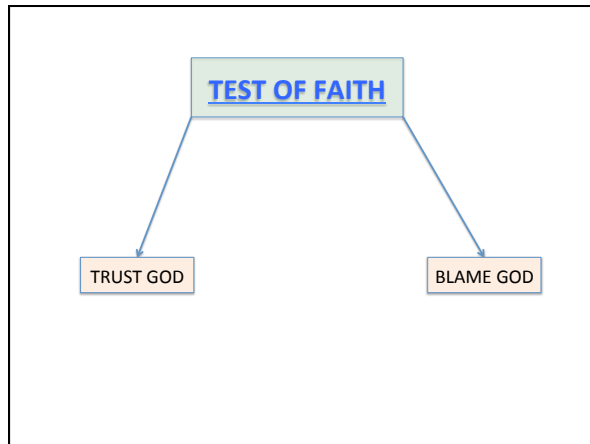
A Lesson In Faith

Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, **that your faith should not fail**; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

- **Living faith produces good works** that are a direct result of the new nature born into the believer through faith in Jesus.
- Good works are prepared beforehand by God for the believer to walk in through a living faith.
- The only works that God prepared for the believer to walk in are **"good works"** all other works are dead and are forced as a result from the old nature not the Spirit of God.
- Dead works may appear to be good works and some people may even see and call them as good but God views them as dead because they did not come from a living faith in relationship with God.
- Romans 14:25, says "whatever is not from faith is sin."

- My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various **temptations**....Blessed is the man who endures **temptation**; for when he has been **tested**, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is **tempted**, "I am **tempted** by God"; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, nor does He Himself **tempt** anyone. But each one is **tempted** when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."-**James 1:2;12-15**



The Test In The Garden	
"Did God Really Say...." Genesis 3:1	The Result Is Questioning The Word Of God
"You Must Not Touch It..." Genesis 3:3	The Result Is Adding To What God Says
"For God Knows....." Genesis 3:5	<u>The Result Is Doubting The Goodness Of God</u>
"The Woman Whom You Gave...." Genesis 3:12	The Result Is Blaming God For Doing Wrong
"The Serpent Deceived Me..." Genesis 3:13	The Result Is Blaming The Serpent For Doing Wrong
"The Woman Saw The Tree Was...Desirable..." Genesis 3:6	Adam And Eve's Own Desire Caused The Sin
"The Tree Was...Pleasant To The Eyes..." Genesis 3:6	Adam And Eve Were Enticed By Lack Of Trust In God

The Test Of Faith

- God will test our faith but not beyond what we can bear.
- "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.-1 Corinthians 10:13
- Tempted comes from the same Greek word "tested" used in and James 1:2;12-15

Tests Of Faith

- Abraham was tested in faith as is every person who chooses to walk the path of faith.
- All believers will be sooner or later be brought to a **crisis of faith** which will exhaust every human resource available to him.
- It is this crisis that teaches us to truly trust upon the Lord.
- If we base are lives upon God's Word we will be able to stand in the midst of the test, but **if we rely upon what we see or what we understand we will falter and move deeper into the abyss of darkness created by our own lack of trust.**

- If we fail the test we shouldn't blame God for our sin but we should learn from it.
- So many get angry at God for their sinful behaviors when in reality they should be praising Him for His grace.
- "The foolishness of man ruins his way, and his heart rages against the Lord." —**Proverbs 19:3**
- God tests our faith to demonstrate man's short comings but never beyond what we can bear and He provides a way out.
- The way out is to live in His grace.
- "For it is good that the heart be established by grace," —**Hebrews 13:9**

- Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. —**James 1:12-15**
- God tests us and every testing is potentially a *temptation* if we yield to our lusts.
- Temptation does not come from God but from our sinful lusts.
- **If we sin under testing we cannot blame God because He provides the way of escape for us in every testing.**
- He knows how much we can handle.

The Response Of Temptation

- The same word or noun "*peirasmos*" is used for both ideas of "temptation" in verse 2, as it is in verses 12-13.
- All of us go through various trials as a testing of our faith.
- The primary difference is not in the temptation but in the person's response to it.
- **If a believer responds in faithful obedience to God's word and seeks Him the temptation or trial is endured with wisdom.**

- **If the person during a trial or temptation yields to the flesh doubting God and His goodness and becoming angry with God to the point of questioning His Goodness the temptation has given way to sin in the believer's life.**
- James says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God....' (vs. 3)
- The temptation has moved from being a trial that needs be endured in relationship with God to a separation from God.
- A person who is going through financial difficulty blames God and steals believing himself to be justified because it is God's fault he is not able to meet his financial obligations.

Example of Jonah

- **“But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.** And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” And he said, **“It is right for me to be angry, even to death!”** “But the LORD said, “You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.”-Jonah 4

Jesus Is Able To Help In Times Of Our Temptations

- "...being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”-Hebrews 2:18
- It is astonishing to think that there is a God in Heaven who by His own choosing and experience knows what believers are going through and can help during our times of temptations not simply just feel bad for me!
- **God didn't just give commands from Mt. Sinai but He came down and experienced living as a man so that we can identify with Him and He with us.**

Temptation Is Common To Man

- Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man;** but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”-- 1 Cor 10:12-13
- "...And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”--Matt 6:13
- Lead us away from the places where we will be tempted

Temptation Is Not Sin

- "...**each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.** Then, **when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin;** and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”--James 1:14-15
- Temptation only becomes sin when we allow the temptation to **control** our thoughts and behaviors!
- When we allow our desires in thought, word, and deed to be contrary to the Scriptures the temptation has become fully-grown and becomes sin in our life

There is Three Types Of Sin

- There is the **sin that is of the will**. Committing sin knowing it is wrong.
- “Also **keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me**; Then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression.”-Psalm 19:12-13
- There is **the sin of ignorance**. A person doesn’t know the action that they are doing is wrong.
- There is the **sin that controls from within** and we are powerless to overcome.-Romans 7

Greek Word	Definition	Reference
<i>Harmatia</i>	Miss the Mark	Romans 3:9
<i>Paraptoma</i>	Lapse or deviation from the truth; False Step or Blunder	Hebrews 6:6; Matt. 6:14; 2 Cor. 5:19; Eph. 2:5
<i>Parabaino</i>	To Overstep, to Neglect, to depart; to Go Beyond	Matt. 15:2; Acts 1:25; 2 John 1:9
<i>Huperbaino</i>	To Go Over, to blur the lines	1 Thess. 4:6
<i>Anomia</i>	Lawlessness, whether being ignorant or willful	Matt. 7:23; 2 Thess. 2:7; Titus 2:14; 1 John 3:4

Hebrew Word	Definition	Reference
<i>Chat'a</i>	Miss the mark through word or deed	Judges 20:16; Proverbs 19:2
<i>'Asham</i>	Sin out of ignorance	Leviticus 4:13
<i>'Aven</i>	A lifestyle of bad conduct	Psalm 10:7
<i>'Avah</i>	Going in the wrong direction	1 Samuel 20:30
<i>'Amal</i>	Cause problems in people's lives	Isaiah 10:1; Hab. 1:3
<i>'Aval</i>	Deceitfulness	Psalm 43:1
<i>'Abar</i>	Cross the line in thought or deed	Hosea 6:7; 8:1
<i>Ra'a</i>	Being totally good for nothing	Proverbs 20:14
<i>Pash'a</i>	Cause separation by rebellion in relationships	Isaiah 43:27
<i>Rash'a</i>	wickedness	Job 3:17

Hebrew Word	Definition	Reference
<i>Shagag</i>	Sin through deception, Led astray	Psalm 119:21
<i>Zimmah</i>	Sin Willfully	
<i>Shal</i>	Accidental Sin; Non-intent	
<i>Ma'al</i>	Breach of Trust	Nehemiah 13:27

Sin And Its Wages

- “Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness.”-**1 John 3:4**
- “All unrighteousness is sin....”-**1 John 5:17**
- “....whatever is not of faith is sin.-**Romans 14:23**
- “for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.”-**Romans 3:23**
- “....for the wages of sin is death”-**Romans 6:23**

Nature of Sin

- “Sin is lawlessness.”-**1 John 3:4**
- Sin is unrighteousness-**1 John 5:17**
- Sin is anything not of faith. -**Romans 14:23**
- Sin is universal.-**Romans 3:10,19,23**

Maturity Is The Goal

- **TELOS = LAST, FINAL, OR COMPLETE**
- **TELIOS = ACCOMPLISHING ITS DESIGNED PURPOSE MATURE OR FULL-GROWN, PROCESS OF GIVING YOUR LIFE TO GOD**
- **HERE JAMES IS USING TELIOS, WHICH IS BEING FULLY MATURE OR RECOGNIZING HIS TOTAL PURPOSE IN CHRIST.**

Take Our Thoughts Captive

- "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ....**" 2 Cor 10:4-5
- When we know our thoughts are contrary to the Scriptures we are taught by the Scriptures to take every thought captive before they cause ourselves and others harm.
- It is the little openings that we allow into our lives that open the heart for sin to become fully grown.

Weapons Of Warfare

- “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”.-**Ephesians 6:13-18**



Truth Is A Person

- “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”-**John 14:6**
- “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”-**John 17:17**



Jesus is Our Righteousness

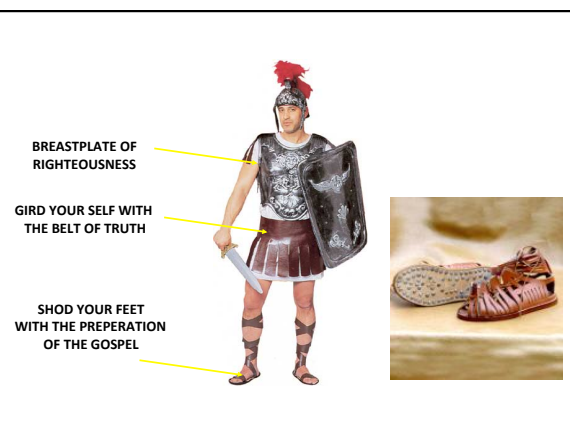
- "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."-Romans 10:4
- "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption"-1 Corinthians 1:30
- "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."-2 Corinthians 5:21

Robed In Righteousness

- Once robed in the righteousness of Jesus it is not what we do but what he has done because when God looks at you he doesn't look at your sinful behaviors but sees the work of His Son upon the cross.
- "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."-Titus 3:4-7

Ignorance To Our Righteousness

- Ignorance to our righteousness in Christ leads ultimately to immaturity
- Ignorance to our righteous position in Christ has through the centuries caused people to try to earn their righteousness through works
- "For they **being ignorant** of God's righteousness, and **seeking to establish** their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God."-Rom. 10:3



GOSPEL OF GRACE

Acts 20:24

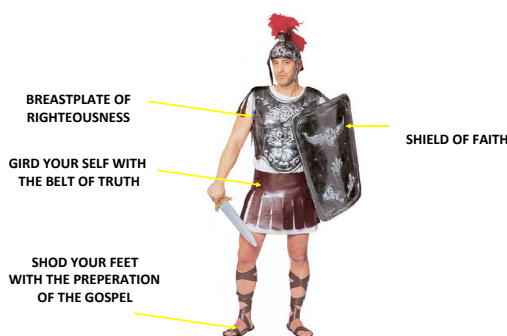
But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

The Gospel Is The Power Of Salvation To Everyone Who Believes. (Rom. 1:16)

- The Psalmist said: "I long for Your salvation, O LORD.." - Ps 119:174
- When a person has a sense of his imperfection it is followed by a deep longing for salvation.
- "When we think of salvation we usually think of the "unconverted" who "need" salvation.
- But the Gospel is the power of salvation continually throughout the life of the believer
- In short it continues to save and save, and save.....The gift that keeps on giving

How Does The Gospel Continually Save?

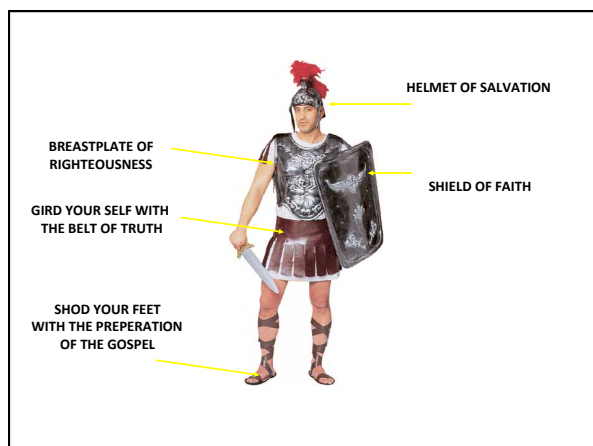
- The Gospel is for the sick Jesus said and our disease is sin and we are in need of continual healing through forgiveness
- The Gospel frees the believer to experience the continual love of God
- The Gospel continually takes away the paralysis of shame and guilt by empowering the believer with the healing of salvation
- The Gospel continually takes away the fear of not being "good enough"



What We Know About Faith

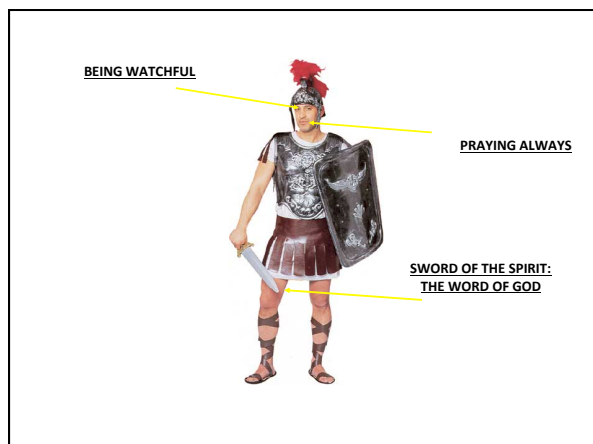
- Faith is not a work. It is a gift and the means by which man is saved. (Rom. 12:3)
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" - **Ephesians 2:8**
- "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." - Romans 10:17
- "Yet, looking to the promise of God, he [Abraham] didn't waver through unbelief, but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what he had promised, he was also able to perform." **Romans 4:20-21**

- Faith is being fully convinced in the promises of God.
- We are made righteous before God through faith.
- We are justified before God through faith as opposed to the Law.
- We live by faith in the promises of God.
- Faith is the opposite of sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)
- It is by faith that we perceive the things happening around us are not be chance.
- "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."



Our Salvation Is Secure

- "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." - **John 6:37**
- "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy," - **Jude 24**
- "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand." - **John 10:28**
- "...am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." - **2 Timothy 1:12**



Defeating Temptation Through The Scriptures

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" -Matthew 4:1-4

- "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"--Eph 6:17
- "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious."--1 Peter 2:1-3



Ephesians 6:11 & 18

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, **being watchful** to this end with all perseverance

Defeating Temptation Through Prayer

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.-James 1:2-5

Watchfulness

- "**Watch**, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."- 1 Cor 16:13
- "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is **high time to awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."-Rom 13:11
- "**Be sober, be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."- 1 Peter 5:8

The Cause of Sin

- The reason we sin is because of who we are
- We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because it is part of our nature to sin.
- "Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned."-Romans 5:12
- Those who have not come to Jesus sin and love it justifying themselves by their good behavior
- Those who have come to Jesus hate sin and although there may be a lapse into sin the believer does not justify it but despises sin.

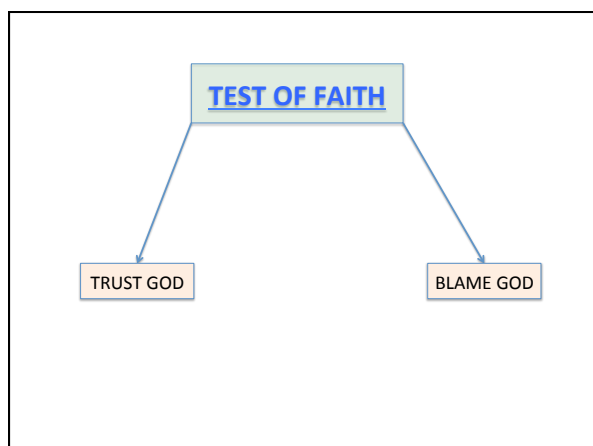
- The seat of sin is in the will of man and our physical body is the instrument for behaviors through the power of sin.
- There are **environmental** conditions that will arouse our nature which can cause sinful behaviors.
- There is a certain **genetic** make up towards certain sins that are passed down through family genetics, i.e. alcoholism, drug addictions, workaholic, anger, passivity, and slothfulness.
- There are **community** sins that affect us by how we see the world, i.e. racism, religion, and ethnocentricity.

- “Let no man say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God,” for God can’t be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each one is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin; and the sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.”-**James 1:13-15**
- “But if you show partiality, you commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”-**James 2:9-10**

- “To him therefore who knows to do good, and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.”-**James 4:17**
- The clearest definition of sin in the bible is in Romans 14:23, “whatever is not of faith is sin”.
- Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”?-Proverbs 20:9
- Jesus dealt with our sinful nature upon the cross thus condemning sin in the world.
- “The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”-**John 1:29**
- “You, being in past times alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works, yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and blameless before him, if it is so that you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard, which is being proclaimed in all creation under heaven; of which I, Paul, was made a servant.”-**Colossians 1:21-23**

James 1:5-8

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.



A Sound Mind

- "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." --- **2 Tim 1:7**
- "Sound" comes from a compound Greek word that means, "healing that comes from proper thinking, sober thinking, discipline by training, self-control"
- The one Who gives the sound mind is God

Wisdom

- The wisdom that is needed in this context is the wisdom to understand how to persevere through the various temptations that you are enduring.
- Wisdom is seeing life realistically from God's perspective.
- The believer needing more wisdom repeatedly asks God to open his or her eyes and heart to see the trial from God's perspective.
- God will help us take His view of the trials.

- During various temptations we need wisdom a lot more than we need knowledge.
- Knowledge is acquired facts about something.
- Wisdom is the ability to put into practice knowledge.
- God's wisdom comes directly from God and is revealed in His Word. .
- True wisdom will always be consistent with God's word in the application of dealing with various temptations in life.

Jesus Is Wisdom

- "...both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."-**Colossians 2:2-3**
- "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption."-**1 Corinthians 1:30**
- Instead of emphasizing the temptation or trial and its troubling affect upon our life, we should focus on the Lord Himself Who is our wisdom, and righteousness and redemption and count it all joy to be in a relationship with Him through the struggle.

The Cross Is Wisdom From God

- "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."-**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

Asking For Wisdom

1. **Let him ask:** This is the first part of the role in seeking wisdom during a trial. It is in the present tense and imperative which means it is a command to keep asking and seeking.
2. **Ask God:** This is the second part in seeking wisdom. God is the only One Who can truly help us during the trial because He knows us at our core.
3. **Ask without doubting:** Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). We must believe that God is there and that He will reveal Himself to the seeking heart.

God Answers Liberally

- James says that God gives wisdom: **"...to all liberally and without reproach...."**
- The word for **"liberally"** carries the idea of a singleness of heart to bless without any conditions attached. God sole purpose during our temptations is to give wisdom unconditionally.
- The believers only condition is that we simply ask.
- Jesus stated in His Sermon on the Mount a promise to those who ask of the Father:

- “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**”-Matthew 7:7-11

Asking, Seeking And Knocking

- Asking, Seeking and Knocking are all in the present imperative which means keep doing it until we have an answer.
- This prayer is directed to God, Who is our Father and our Father knows what we need and he will give to us according to our need.
- God does not promise to change our circumstances or remove difficulties and trials in our lives.
- This verse has caused a multitude of problems for people because it is taken out of context.

Persistence Is The Key

- It begins by recognizing our need and then we ask God for wisdom about the trial.
- Then we need to be persistent by continually asking, seeking and knocking
- How many times have we started to read the Bible, or pray, or do something, only to quit because the answer did not come immediately?
- We need to be persistent and then the life of Christ will come alive to us as we mature through the trial.
- God, as our Father, will not leave us but will guide us with wisdom.
- We will make mistakes on the journey but God, as our Father, does not make mistakes.

God Answers Without Reproach

- The word for “reproach” means to severely rebuke or chastise”.
- However, God answers **without chastisement or rebuke**.
- He doesn’t look at us and say, “I just gave you what you wanted and now you are back hassling Me again.”
- “....the Lord will never cast even the mildest **reproach** on a child of His who comes seeking wisdom in time of trouble and testing. He will not remind us of how undeserving and unworthy we are, obvious as that might be....Without hesitation, reluctance, or reservation, **His divine wisdom will be given to us in generous abundance**.” - MacArthur

Asking Must Be From Faith

- The only requirement that the Lord desires is that the believer asks from a heart of faith without doubting.
- Doubting God carries the idea of not trusting God and His goodness to accomplish what He promises He will do, i.e. give wisdom during the test of a trial.
- It is easy to look at life's trials and ask God, "why did this catastrophe have to happen to me?"
- It is easy to look at life's trials and say to ourselves, "God doesn't care about little ole me."

- It is easy to look at life's trials and say to ourselves, "I'm not deserving of an answer from God because I'm a complete failure at living the Christian life."
- Asking God in faith requires that we believe He is capable of doing what He said He will do and He personally cares about our situation because He is good.
- James teaches that faith is the indispensable stipulation of prayer.

Mixing Hearing And Faith

- Faith is **not a work** but is **the means** by which we receive the message of the gospel
- The ability to believe is a gift given by God to all people
- "...God has dealt to each one **a measure of faith**."-Rom 12:3
- **Faith is given to man so that man can train his ear to hear what God has said.**
- There is no profit in faith if we do not hear what God has said.
- "...but the word which they heard did not profit them..."- Heb 4:2

Unbelief

- **Unbelief is the act of the will to not trust God to do what He says He will do!**
- We know that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"-Rom. 10:17
- It is an antagonistic slap in the face of God to willfully chose not to believe Him
- We might have occasional moments of doubt when we are troubled in faith but unbelief willfully opposes faith.

Tossed Around By Doubt

- James says that a person who doubts will be tossed around like a wave of the sea driven by the wind.
- **A wave of the sea** is a proper description of one who is hindered by unbelief and unnecessary doubts.
- It is a life driven by the **wind of chaos** and risks the danger of being “carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting....”-**Ephesians 4:14**
- Doubting the goodness of God can also lead to “....depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron....”-**1 Timothy 4:1-2**

- “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”-Colossians 2:6-8

The Double-Minded

- The middle ground between faith and unbelief is to be **double-minded**.
- The word for “double-minded” carries the idea of being divided in interest.
- Esau was not concerned with the things of God but only lived in the present seeking immediate satisfaction.
- Esau treated spiritual things as being of no account and proved it by selling his birthright for a bowl of soup.
- Esau is likened to a fornicator although his offense was spiritual not moral.
- Esau cared nothing of what God was doing in history and thus was labeled a fornicator offering his body for his own purposes rather than for God.

Focused On Earthly Things

- The double-minded person is focused like Esau on earthly things.
- “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—**who set their mind on earthly things**. —**Philippians 3:18-19**

James 1:9-11

“Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.”

No One Escapes Temptations

- It doesn't matter whether or not you have money or if you are living in a van down by the river. Every human living in this world will encounter various situations that will test them to question the goodness of God.
- The word in the original language for “**lowly**” means literally, “**not rising from the ground**”. This is a person who just can't get anything to go right for him.
- This poor man may say to himself, “God is blessing the rich and cursing me”.
- The rich person may say to himself, “I am rich and am in need of nothing” becoming unthankful towards God and taking for granted the provisions He has provided.



Proper Attitude

- No matter whether we are rich or poor our identity must come from the character of Who God is and His goodness and mercy.
- In the end it all fades away like the vegetation under the scorching heat of the sun.
- “Our trials, as well as our triumphs on the earth, are only temporary. This fact should help us endure our trials, and keep us from becoming self-confident in our triumphs.”-Allman

Wisdom Through Various Circumstances

<u>Wisdom</u>	<u>Double-Minded</u>
Looks at life situations from God's perspective	Looks at other people to compare themselves with how well things are going
Knows that God is good no matter what the circumstances may be	Has a sense of bitterness towards God
Seeks God during difficult circumstances	Stops seeking and becomes resentful
Values God's wisdom	Values Man's wisdom above God's wisdom
The goal is not the gifts God gives but a relationship built on His grace	The goal is to get from God such things as health, wealth, insight, power, and control
Recognizes that God has not left them	God must not be involved in the affairs of the world, especially my world
Difficult circumstances can build maturity in my relationship with God	Difficult circumstances have no value
Everybody goes through times of testing	I am the only one who seems to have these things happening to me

James 1:14-15

"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

Temptation Comes From Within

- James makes it clear that we are drawn away into sin by our own desires.
- There are three aspects at work within the human nature at work to tempt us to wrong doing:
 1. Desire or lust: The word in the original language used here carries the idea, "I must have it at all costs no matter what it is until my desire is satisfied".
 2. Drawn away: This is a hunting or fishing term that means to covertly lure the prey to capture.
 3. Enticed: This a word used for bait or to catch by bait.

- All of the verbs in the original language are in the present passive tense. Which conveys the idea that it is within our nature or the very fabric of who we are to fall prey to our **own** desires.
- James makes it personal to each persons desires.
- Once we have become born-again there is no longer an **acceptance** of yielding to our own desires but there still is a **natural disposition** to want what we want contrary to God.
- The sinless perfection heresy arises out the confusion over their claim that the natural disposition towards sin has been removed.

- “.....so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood 19 and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.”- Deuteronomy 29:18-19
- Some people do not want Jesus to be the author of their salvation. They want to write their own book of salvation. God will not read it! God only reads His perfect book written in the blood of His Son Jesus

Problem Of The Heart

- "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" - Jeremiah 17:9
- “And He said, ‘What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.’” - Mark 7:20-13

The Problem Of The Human Nature

- “For what I am doing, **I do not understand**. For what I will to **do**, that I **do** not practice; but what I hate, that I **do**. If, then, I **do** what I will not to **do**, **I agree with the law** that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who **do** it, but sin that dwells in me.”-Romans 7:15-17
- The believer now recognizes that his nature is not good and produces sin which is no longer acceptable to him.

The Truth Of Scripture

The flesh we are told:

- "For I know that in me (that is, in my **flesh**) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find."-Romans 7:18
- "It is the Spirit who gives life; the **flesh** profits nothing."-John 6:63
- “So then, those who are in the **flesh** cannot please God.”- Romans 8:8
- For the **flesh** lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the **flesh**; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”-Galatians 5:17

Full-Grown Sin

- James says that when sin has become full-grown it brings forth death.
- **"Death"** in verse 15 is contrasted to **"life"** in verse 12.
- We know that the reason we are all dying is because sin entered the world through Adam's offense.
- "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and **death through sin**, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" **-Romans 5:12**
- We can be assured that through faith in Jesus we will have eternal life even though our desires lead to sin and fully conceived sin is death.
- "...so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." **-Romans 5:21**

David Prayed For His Sin

- "Who can discern his errors? Forgive me from hidden errors. **Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins. Let them not have dominion over me.** Then I will be upright. I will be blameless and innocent of great transgression." **- Psalm 19:12-13**
- David asked God to help him over his "arrogant" or "willful sins" to not have dominion over him so that he would be innocent of the "great transgression" or literally "rebellion".

Psalm 119:169-176

- "Let my cry come before You, O LORD; Give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word. My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; and let Your judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments."

A Deep Sense of Imperfection

"The Psalmist is approaching the end of the Psalm, and his petitions gather force and fervency; he seems to break into the inner circle of divine fellowship, and to come even to the feet of the great God whose help he is imploring. This nearness creates the most lowly view of himself, and leads him to close the Psalm upon his face in deepest self-humiliation, begging to be sought out like a lost sheep." (Spurgeon)

"The phrase that is often used is that we can have freedom from "all known sin." But I feel that as we consider first the Word of God and then human experience, we must understand that there is a problem in the word "known," and also a problem in the word "conscious," if we talk of "conscious" sin. The problem in using both or either of these words is in fact that since the fall man has habitually fooled himself. We fool ourselves deep inside our subconscious and unconscious nature. The more the Holy Spirit puts His finger on my life and goes down deep into my life, the more I understand that there are deep wells to my nature."---Francis A. Schaeffer, True Spirituality

James 1:16

"Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren."

Don't Be Deceived

- James places verse 16, between the truth of being tempted by our own desire and verse 17, which reminds us of the truth of God's goodness.
- The believer should never be deceived into believing that when going through a test of faith that God is tempting him nor should he doubt the goodness of God.
- "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is **common** to man; **but God is faithful**...."-1 **Corinthians 10:12**

James 1:17-18

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."

Every Good Gift

- What comes from God is not sin but every good and perfect thing comes from God.
- He has no variation of character.
- He does not change like the universe that is passing away and wearing out.
- He is the source of all the light that is in the universe that is good and perfect.
- "In the Greek text there are two separate words to describe God's giving. The first word (dosis) means 'the act of giving' and is accompanied by the adjective for good, while the second (dorema) denotes the actual gifts received and is preceded by the adjective for perfect. The first expression emphasizes the goodness of receiving something from God, while the second, the perfect quality of whatever God gives. God's giving is continuously good, and His gifts are always perfect."-The Nelson Study

The Father Of lights

- "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. **He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.**"-John 1:6-10
- This is the crisis man finds himself in today. The truth is available directly in front of us yet we could ignore it and choose a false lifestyle.

- This Scripture in John seems to indicate that man did not recognize the reason why anyone is born into the world with any love or care or goodness.
- This demonstrates how deeply the fallen nature of man has come since the original Fall.
- There is no freedom separate from the living God.
- However, if I don't recognize the True Light then what appears to be light is a path of darkness.
- If someone was to offer you a million dollars to live in freedom or a one dollar to live in slavery which would you choose?
- People choose the slavery option every day!

Rebirth

- The Good news is that although we don't recognize the truth. God by His own will makes us new **by the word of truth.**
- "Regeneration is the act, an wholly act, of God, 'the Father of lights' (v.17), accomplished in the exercise of His will. Through His sovereign will, God washes away sin, grants forgiveness, and plants new life- a completely new nature within each person who trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."-MacArthur

- “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” -**Titus 3:3-7**
- The Holy Spirit has now been poured into lives making us new daily in our walk with Him.

The Word Of Truth

- Becoming Word Centered -

- Security -

Your security is based on the truth of who you are in Christ Jesus.

Your value is communicated by the truths of God's word.

You are free to be joyful, prayerful and thankful in all circumstances.

- Guidance -

The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.

God's word is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path.

You know the plans God has for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you.

- Wisdom -

You see God's purposes working themselves out in your life.

You know that God is presently working in your life and in the lives of those around you.

In the end, God gets what God wants.

- Power -

You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

God is able to do more than we can imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

"Apart from me you can do nothing."

- Jesus

James 1:19-20

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Proper Response During Trials

- We can respond during trials in our life through complaining to everyone about our problems. James says be **slow to speak** during a time of testing.
- We can respond during trials in our life by becoming angry. James says be **slow to wrath** during a time of testing.
- What we need to be is **quick to hear** from the word of truth both through counsel and from the Scriptures.

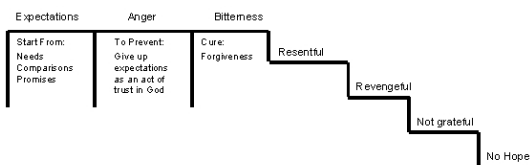
Talking Quotes

- "Many people have observed that we have two ears and one mouth, which ought to remind us to listen twice as much as we speak".-Constable
- "Ceaseless talkers may easily degenerate into fierce controversialists".-Ross
- "The great talker is rarely a great listener, and never is the ear more firmly closed than when anger takes over".-Motyer
- "The tribute was once paid to a great linguist that he could be silent in seven different languages".-Barclay
- "The most effective means of ministry . . . is responding to need; not dumping our load"- Cedar

Angry Response To Trials

- When we allow anger to get the best of us during trials it does not produce the righteousness within us that God is seeking to build in the believers life.
- James instructs us to "count it all joy when we fall into various trials" knowing the working of the trials make us mature in Him.
- If we become angry during trials the result will be a root of bitterness taking hold of our heart resulting in relationship, health, and spiritual issues saturating our every day lives.
- "If religion does nothing for your temper it has done nothing for your soul."-Clayton

Expectations Verses Trust In God



James 1:21

"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

Therefore

- James has been building up to this point his instructions on how we should be walking in the midst of our faith being tested through temptations.
- Some of the things we have talked about are:
 1. We don't do the things of the Christian life and call ourselves Christian! Believers are in love with Jesus and our actions represent this love.
 2. When problems in life abound we don't need to have more faith we need to seek God for who He is.

3. All believers will be sooner or later be brought to a **crisis of faith** which will exhaust every human resource available to him.
4. God tests us and every testing is potentially a temptation if we yield to our lusts.
5. The primary difference is not in the temptation but in the person's response to it.
- 6. If a believer responds in faithful obedience to God's word and seeks Him the temptation or trial is in endured with wisdom.**
- 7. If the person during a trial or temptation yields to the flesh doubting God and His goodness and becoming angry with God to the point of questioning His Goodness the temptation has given way to sin in the believer's life.**

8. James says, "' Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God...." (vs. 3)
9. Temptation does not come from God but from our sinful lusts.
10. The temptation has moved from being a trial that needs be endured in relationship with God to a separation from God.
11. Temptation only becomes sin when we allow the temptation to **control** our thoughts and behaviors!
12. Wisdom is seeing life realistically from God's perspective.
13. The believer needing more wisdom repeatedly asks God to open his or her eyes and heart to see the trial from God's perspective.

14. God will help us take His view of the trials.
15. True wisdom will always be consistent with God's word in the application of dealing with various temptations in life.
16. James says that a person who doubts will be tossed around like a wave of the sea driven by the wind.
17. The middle ground between faith and unbelief is to be **double-minded**.
18. It doesn't matter whether or not you have money or if you are living in a van down by the river. Every human living in this world will encounter various situations that will test them to question the goodness of God.
19. No matter whether we are rich or poor our identity must come from the character of Who God is and His goodness and mercy.

20. The believer should never be deceived into believing that when going through a test of faith that God is tempting him nor should he doubt the goodness of God.
21. What comes from God is not sin but every good and perfect thing comes from God.
22. God by His own will makes us new by the word of truth.
23. We can respond during trials in our life through complaining to everyone about our problems. James says be slow to speak during a time of testing.
24. We can respond during trials in our life by becoming angry. James says be slow to wrath during a time of testing.
25. What we need to be is quick to hear from the word of truth both through counsel and from the Scriptures.

26. When we allow anger to get the best of us during trials it does not produce the righteousness within us that God is seeking to build in the believers life.
27. James instructs us to “count it all joy when we fall into various trials” knowing the working of the trials make us mature in Him.
28. If we become angry during trials the result will be a root of bitterness taking hold of our heart resulting in relationship, health, and spiritual issues saturating our every day lives.

Lay Aside And Receive

- The main verb in this verse is receive but the condition of the receiving is to “lay aside all “filthiness and over flow of wickedness”.
- Before God’s word can produce His righteousness in us we need to put off all hindrances that stand between us and that righteousness.
- In other words, In light of the nature of temptation and the goodness of God we are to lay aside the things we hold to that get in the way of our relationship with God.
- This is the sanctification process of living moment by moment with God, desiring His righteousness, as opposed to our own sinful desires.

Filthiness

- The word for for filthiness in the original language is “rhuparia” and refers to any kind of defilement and impurity.
- It is closely related to the idea of the interference of wax in the ear which impairs the ability to hear.
- In this context filthiness seems to refer to the anger of man that cannot produce the righteousness of God and makes it difficult to hear from God and His Word.

Wickedness

- The word for “wickedness” in the original language is “kakia” and implies a moral desire to break laws willingly and without shame.
- It may remain hidden deep with our heart for a long time before it is expressed outwardly.
- We all bring old habits and baggage that is carried over from before we were a believer or bad habits we have picked up along the way.
- Some of this baggage we are blind to much of it.

The Receptive Heart

- We don’t realize we are displeasing to God in our thoughts, words, or action and then while reading the Word of God we are convicted in areas we don’t even realize that are sin.
- When this happens the receptive heart cleans out the sin and puts on the clean clothes of new life in Christ.
- The believer should humbly receive what God has revealed through His Word and respond cooperatively with the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The Word of God will then have good soil in which to grow and it will yield an abundant harvest of righteousness within the life and actions of the believer.

Receive With Humility

- “It is easy to denounce wrong in the world outside of me, anyone without a spark of the grace of God can do that; easy to denounce the sins of others while all the time I may be allowing all sorts of worldly things in my own religious life.”- Chambers
- If the focus of our thinking is upon our own victories then pride comes in and tells us, “we have it all together”
- Pride is a troubling problem for the believer in that of all the sins that capitalize on my weaknesses pride glorifies in my victories.
- Pride steps in and begins to make us think that we are some kind of spiritual giant and that we have it all together.
- We are to receive God’s instruction with meekness or humility in the attitude of our heart as the Holy Spirit reveals sin.

The Implanted Word

- The original word for “implanted” is “*emphytos*” and literally means, “inborn, implanted by nature, or implanted by instruction.”
- Upon coming to salvation through receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior the Living Word of God is implanted into our lives and begins to take root deep with the heart of the believer.
- The Word of God becomes alive and active: “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart”.- Hebrews 4:12

Thessalonians Love for the Word Of God

- "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."-- 1 Thess 2:13
- The Bible is different than any other book in that it is a living organism
- Jesus is the living word and a relationship with Him through his written word changes our life

God's Word Accomplishes It's Goal

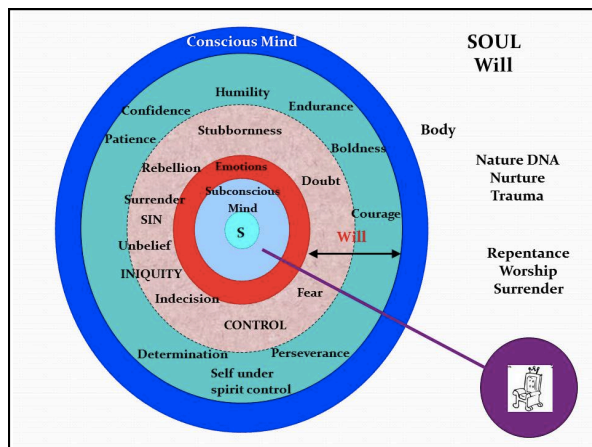
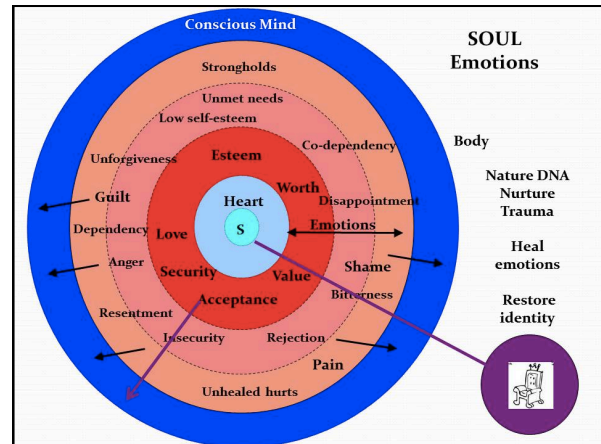
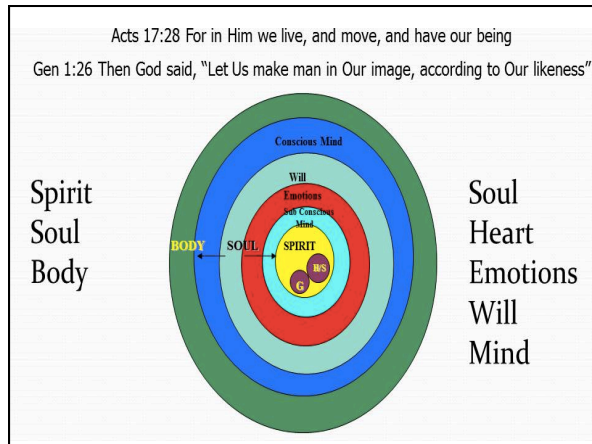
- "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."- Isa 55:11
- God's word is spoken by God in order to accomplish within each believer a healing that makes the person whole renewed and alive to the things of God.
- God knows where to tweak and tinker areas that are needed within the soul of believers

God's Word Pierces And Divides Between Soul And Spirit

- God's word is a scalpel that skillfully exposes unbiblical thoughts and attitudes
- As we present our minds to the word of God He then begins to shape our thoughts into His thoughts.
- The word for "divides" is "*merismos*" which also carries the idea of distribution.
- The word of God not only separates soul and spirit but distributes to each one of us the ingredients we need in order to mature overcome and walk in victory

The Word Saves

- The implanted Word of God saves or heals our soul as we walk with Him.
- The Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer through the Word of God healing and cleansing the heart of all our hurts and hang-ups.
- It saves through guarding the heart of the believer through truth against the many false doctrines that come against the truth of God's Word.
- "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."-**Proverbs 4:23**



James 1:22-24

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was."

Hearers of the Word vs. Doers of the Word



• Hearers

- Deceive themselves
- Forget who they are
- Do not persevere
- And so they do not do, that is, live out the life of faith



• Doers

- Are not deceiving themselves
- Remember who they are
- Persevere
- And so they do, that is, live out the life of faith

Is James Denying Paul's Theology?

- Are we justified by faith alone?
 - Yes as Paul declares, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." -**Romans 3:28**
 - James is addressing our justification before men and Paul would agree! Faith must be shown to be known.
 - Paul taught good works must accompany saving faith (Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:8; Gal. 5:6; Phil. 2:11-12).
 - Paul corrected justification before God by works of the law.
 - James is teaching justification by faith but good works are evidence of the believer's walk.

Outward Nature Of Faith

- A Person is saved by faith (Eph 2:8-9).
- Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
- The believer must walk by faith not sight (2 Cor. 5:7).
- Whatever we do apart from faith is sin (Rom 14:23).
- True Faith is saving and visible. The internal change can be recognized externally.
- Spiritual character and good works will be observed by others as a result of the inward working of the Word of God upon our heart and our obedience to it.

Deceptive Hearing

- The word for "hearers" implies the idea of listening in an audience to a singer or speaker.
- The word for "deceiving" means a miscalculation or add wrong.
- People can audit a class and listen to the teacher without any commitment to learning the material or taking a test.
- Deceptive hearing is hearing the Word of God without ever intending to live or obey what is heard which is a "fuzzy calculated answer" cheating oneself from the truth.
- It is not merely hearing but applying!

Forgetful Observing

- The word for natural is “genesis” in the original language and is speaking of a person’s origin, ancestry, or birth.
- In this context a person looks intently in a mirror at the face of their nature and of who they are by origin.
- However, what ends up happening is although they look intently at themselves and know who they are by nature, they walk away and forget about themselves.
- The hearing of the Word of God exposes who we are in our thoughts, actions, and motives and the forgetful observer doesn’t face the sin of their inward condition by applying the truths of God’s Word but denies the reality of their inward condition by doing nothing.

James 1:25

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Looking Into The Word

- The person who reads and study’s the word of God in its perfection is the contrast to the forgetful hearer.
- The perfect law encompasses the whole of God’s revealed Word to man.
- When a person looks deeply into Who God is in His revealed Word the character of God is embraced through His grace, His compassion, His mercy, and His love bringing freedom and transformation of the heart.
- This results in not only wanting to continually study His word but to continually want more of His character to be a part of ourselves resulting in a blessing.

Blessed

- “Blessed” is from the root: “to go straight, to walk, go on, advance, or make progress”
- A blessed person is on the correct path in life with his eyes fully on the Lord and His plan for his life.
- This person beholds the many wonders of a relationship with the Living God while walking by faith in obedience to His Word.

James 1:26-27

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

The Religious Person

- The New Testament never uses this ancient Greek word for **"religious"** in a positive sense (Acts 17:22, 25:19, 26:5; Colossians 2:23).
- A Person must be careful not to know the Christian life and not know the Christ (2 TIM 3:2-5)
- If a person doesn’t know Jesus their religion is useless.
- In a word let your religion be a religion of the heart. Let it lie deep in your soul, thus showing the your faith in Jesus by doing the works that Jesus did.
- Study the Master and His life and live according to Him not our own thoughts and ideas about how we think it should be.

Pure And Undefiled Religion

- One of the great themes of Scripture is God’s deep concern for the poor, the weak, and the destitute.
- He is a God of deep compassion and does not tolerate those who call themselves by His name and abuse the needy.
- A religion that is “pure and undefiled” walks with compassion towards those who are less fortunate.

Unspotted From The World

- Lot is an example of a man who was spotted by the world. He chose Sodom and the richness of the area. Eventually he moved to the wicked city. The end result was that Lot needed to be rescued by his Uncle Abraham.
- “I do not pray that You should take them out **of the world**, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not **of the world**, just as I am not of the world.” -John 17:15-16
- We are in the world but we are not of the world. So many believers seek to be in the world and of the world in hopes the world will accept Jesus.
- “I would like to see a Christian, not kept in a glass case away from trial and temptation, but yet covered with an invisible shield, so that, wherever he went, he would be guarded and protected from the evil influences that are in the world in almost every place.” -Spurgeon