

The Book of James

Sermons Preached

by Dave Lueloff

Temptation / Tribulation

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

The word *temptation* can refer to a testing from God or it can refer to a temptation to sin – which does not come from God – but rather from our flesh. In this case – the temptation is a *Test from God*.

Saved will be tempted / tested by persecution, poverty, calamity of any kind. These try the faith, and they show whether he who is tried is disposed to adhere to his faith in God, or whether he will apostatize.

This is a Bible concept – that God will tempt / test / allow tribulation into the life of a believer

➤ **This is for *My Brethren* – for the born-again Christian.**

Those who are frauds, God does not deal with – He knows who are His children.
So, if you are unsaved, this is not for you.

Here are some examples of God using temptation / tribulation / testing

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, / try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*.

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Exo 16 – No food – manna from the ground Exo 17 No water – water from the Rock

God allowed this to teach Israel to trust Him – It was on purpose that there was no food & no water.

Deuteronomy 8:15-16 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, *wherein were* fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where *there was* no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

➤ **We should rejoice in temptations / tribulation**

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Enemies of believers show that they are lost & enemies show that you are saved

Philippians 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

Testings in the life of the believer show that they are saved

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Paul rejoiced in sufferings

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

➤ **Why? Knowing this – it is working – God is working in your life**

James 1:3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

How will God work in the life of a believer? Thru blessings – Yes! But also thru trials – Oh, me!

Romans 5:3-5 And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Psalms 107:23-24 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.

If you have no problems – not much need for the Lord

If you have no difficulties – not much need for God to do something

You have problem – no food / no water / enemies / people hate you / money problems???

OH DEAR LORD....

Want an easy life – stay home / don't tithe / don't attend church / don't serve God

No inner contentment / no need for God to help you / no inner peace / no rewards in heaven / no supernatural help / no grace of God in time of need / no purpose on earth

Might as well just die – cause you are of no use for the cause of Christ

Luke 14:34-35 Salt *is* good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is **neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill**; *but* men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

You are not even fit for dunghill – not worthy of dung!! Wow – God said it – I am just repeating it!

Redeemed = purchased; buy back; bought ---

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Jesus Christ bought me with His precious blood – I am debtor

Romans 1:14-15 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

I am saved – I owe it to God and the Lord Jesus Christ to give my all to Him

➤ **It brings maturity**

James 1:4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

It drives you to God – to trust in Him / to rely upon Him / to call upon Him / for Him to deliver you

Psalms 107:25-27 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.

Psalms 107:28-29 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

Psalms 107:30-31 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

When I am weak – in myself / then am I strong – in the Lord

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

➤ **Conclusion**

Weigh it out

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

He went on and told 2 stories – weigh it out – count the cost

Moses counted the cost

Hebrews 11:25-26 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Jesus endured

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Paul endured

2 Corinthians 11:23-29 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Will you endure? Will you... **James 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Wisdom

James 1:5-8 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

- **You need wisdom – I need wisdom.** The best way to prepare for 2018 is to have wisdom.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

- **There is worldly wisdom and wisdom from God**

1 Corinthians 1:20-21 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Wisdom is found in the Lord Jesus Christ

Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- **Wisdom begins with being saved**

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

- **God does not use pizzazz to get people saved**

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

- **Wisdom is to have the Holy Spirit dwelling within**

Matthew 25:1-4 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:5-8 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9-13 But the wise answered, saying, *Not so*; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Oil = Holy Spirit -- According to this parable ½ of all professing to be saved people are actually lost. 10 people waiting for Jesus to come back – ½ are lost.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Salvation is so easy, a child can be saved – so what makes so many people to not be saved

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the **Lord** shall be saved.

LORD – Means you give all to the Lord / 100% yield to God / Give of your will to God / Only God can bring a human to the point of true salvation / Ye must be born again

- **It is unwise to compare yourself with someone else – You are unique**

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

- **Wisdom comes from doing what God commands / from obeying what the Bible teaches**

Matthew 7:24-28 Therefore **whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not**, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, **that thou mayest observe to do** according to **all that is written therein**: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

The Bible is meant to be read, studied, preached, heard with the ears – but it is written to be obeyed – to change your life. It is written to change your heart.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which **effectually worketh also in you that believe.**

1 Thessalonians 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

- **Wisdom is a life of change / growth / maturity**

Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Assess your life – not compare to 1 month ago / 1 week ago / 1 day ago – have you grown / matured / changed in the last year; the last 5 years; the last 10 years?

2 Corinthians 8:7 Therefore, **as ye abound in every *thing*, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

- **Wisdom is to live a life that God says will last past this life**

Matthew 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Here is the rub

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

...he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever...

The rub – the will of God – means that His will trumps our will

Self-will Judas loved money over the surrendering to the will of God & being saved

Self-will Lucifer

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isaiah 14:13-14 For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High.

Antichrist is referred to as the “Willful King”

Jesus came:

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

At Gethsemane, he yielded his will to die on Calvary:

Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.

You must give of your will to be saved. Don't miss heaven forever over your own will.

- **Wisdom gives in to an all wise God**

Matthew 18:2-4 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

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Sin & Temptation

James 1:12-16 Blessed *is* the man that endureth **temptation**: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Let no man say when he is **tempted**, I am **tempted** of God: for God cannot be **tempted** with evil, neither **tempteth** he any man: But every man is **tempted**, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.

The word *temptation* can refer to a testing from God or it can refer to a temptation to sin – which does not come from God – but rather from our flesh. In this passage, the idea is the temptation to sin. Verse 13-15 makes that very plain.

Temptation is not a sin – it is something to be endured.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Your thoughts can tempt you / other people can tempt you / what you see or hear can tempt you...

Kinds of temptation:

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that every* imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Genesis 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; **for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth**; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Matthew 5:27-28 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Psalms 14:1-3 To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David. The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good. The LORD looked down

from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

For the unsaved church member:

Matthew 23:25-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Temptation to sin does not come from God

James 1:13-14 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

What causes me to want to sin – not God

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

What causes me to want to sin? The flesh / my sinful self / me

What is the proper response to sin?

I HAVE SINNED

What do we usually do?

Genesis 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 18:1-3 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said,

Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Sin destroys

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Leprosy is a type of sin – slowly eats away at the flesh like a cancer / starts out as a spot, scab, hair

No drug addict ever started with heroin / No drunkard ever started getting totally drunk the first time – always starts small.

Prisoners – start with small, petty crime. Lying becomes their life – all starts with a lie here and a lie there.

Conception – sin is started like conception

James 1:15 Then when **lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin:** and sin, **when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**

Andre the Giant – started with conception / Charles Manson started with conception

Sin starts like conception & ends in death

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Ways to deal with sin – do not ignore it / do not cover it up --- No no no ---

Be totally honest with yourself – we are all flawed – sinful to the max against a holy God

1. Get saved – deliver from penalty of sin
2. If saved & sin – confess your sin – agree with God – and then accept His forgiveness & move on
3. Stay right with God – endure temptation / do not err

James 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Good Gifts

Text: James 1:17-21

Good gifts and perfect gifts come from God.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father...

Good Gift – Health Deut 8:18 / Wealth derived from work – man is only happy when working
Mind, mouth, ears, eyes – all good gifts from God
Church home, friends, family - spouse, children – heritage of the Lord
Anything good in your life – rooted in God

Perfect Gift –

Son of God John 3:16 / Blood of Jesus Christ 2 Pet. 1:18-19 / Word of God 2 Tim 3:16
Holy Spirit Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9 / Salvation Heb. 10:14

Comes from God

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.

If it is bad – there are a lot of bad things that happen on earth – none of it is rooted in God. Where does it come from? Who can we say it is rooted in? 1 of 3 things:

From Devil – 1 Pet. 5:8

From Flesh – Rom. 7:18

From Adam – Rom. 5:12

From Will of Man – When King David committed adultery – will of man / when Cain killed Abel – will of man / A human being has his/her own will – much on earth that is bad is from the will of man.

James 1:17 ...cometh down from the Father...with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

He does not change

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Malachi 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning – like the sun – the sun is always there – but sometimes it is hidden – gives a shadow... God is more sure than the sun – will the sun be here tomorrow? Will the sun be here next year – can we trust the sun? Will the sun change?

You can trust God even more so than the sun – no moving, no shadows, no changing...

Saved by His own will

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth...

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.

It is a BIRTH – LIFE

James 1:18 Of his own will **begat he us** with the word of truth... **BEGAT = GIVE BIRTH**

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The best of all gifts – saved / redeemed / born again / heaven forever

Saved With the Word of God

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.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Growth as Christian by Word of God

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.**

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Be Christ-like

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.**

God saved us that we should change – change – change...

Be Christ-like / be giving / be loving / be kind / be joyful / be at peace inside / love brethren...

Firstfruits: That which is first taken from anything; the portion which was usually offered to God
Reference to the rank and dignity of all who are born again

Since we are born again – let every man:

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

The ears are always open, ever ready to receive instruction; but the tongue is surrounded with a double row of teeth, to hedge it in, and to keep it within proper bounds

Speech is silver. Silence is golden

Swift & Slow are opposites

Hear others – you care about them / speak – care about yourself...me, me, me,

You listen – you are caring about others. Jesus cared about others.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Because He cares for me – I care for others.

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.

Filthiness (superfluity = superabundance) of naughtiness – marks of today

Immorality – mark of this day --- how can we combat this?

Christians should use our speech to encourage one another.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

In an era of apostasy – Malachi wrote this:

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

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The Bible – A Mirror

TEXT James 1:22-27, 2 Cor. 3:18

The word Glass = Mirror

Today – two places in the Bible --- The Bible – Like a Mirror

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Bible like a Mirror Reveals our Flaws

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Nothing Wrong with the Mirror

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

Psalms 19:8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalms 19:9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

Psalms 19:10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

The problem is not with the mirror

We change ourselves – not the mirror

ILL don't fix the mirror, fix yourself

we have sinned – God is holy – Bible is holy Word of God

Time to change ourselves: while we are looking into the mirror – we leave – out of sight, out of mind...

Some don't change

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

James 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Some Change

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Those that change = blessed Ps 1:1

Word as a Mirror – “Receive Its correction” - like a soil receives the seed...

Like early in the morning – wake up – look in mirror - change

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.**

Inner change - 1 other place the word GLASS is used concerning the Bible

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Word is also like a mirror – which has the glory of the Lord in it – as we look into that glory, we are changed into that glory --- we look into the Bible & become Christ-like as we allow it to change us.

That change – the Greek word – is **Metamorphosis** – caterpillar to butterfly – a supernatural change

This word is also used:

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Sinner to saint / taverns to church goer / addiction to overcomer...

METAMORPHOSIS – change day by day -- allow the Lord to change you...little by little

Word produces an outward change -- from inner change – words, deeds:

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Concl: Do – not just hear:

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Allow the Bible to change you –

Saved?

Yield to the Lord?

Obey something God has spoken to you about?

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Treat All Men Equal

Text: James 2:1-9

All are not created equally – some are rich, some are poor / some have charisma, most don't
some have nice clothing, some don't / some have good jobs, some just barely survive
some are intelligent, some are not so intelligent / some are nice, some are mean / some love, some hate

But all should be treated equally:

How do we treat with respect of persons?

James 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Treat all the same – no respecter of persons

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God *is* God of gods, and Lord of lords, **a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons**, nor taketh reward:

2 Chronicles 19:7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do *it*: **for *there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons***, nor taking of gifts.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, **Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons**:

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Ephesians 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that **your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him**.

Colossians 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: **and there is no respect of persons**.

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, **who without respect of persons judgeth** according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

We ought to treat people the same way God does – we should look at the heart

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

The heart – everyone needs to be saved – rich, poor, tall, short...

The heart – everyone needs to be loved - / everyone wants to be loved – if you do not love, who will?

You headed for heaven? Care and love all

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory*, with respect of persons.

Jesus is here referred to as: “The LORD OF GLORY” – all humans when compared to the Lord of glory – ILL the sun is a picture of the glory of God – all humans cannot look at sun and stay keep their eyesight

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

This is why we treat all the same – we are all equal in terms of sin... never seen a hearse with a U-haul behind it.

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

All die poor – we are born with our fist clinched; we die with them open. Born sinners clinging to our own will; clinging to things of this world – we die letting it all go

We get, get and get – then we die and leave it all behind. How much did he leave behind? All of it.

True riches

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

James 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a **gold ring**...

impressed by a gold ring – when heaven will have street of gold!

Some think they are rich – but are truly poor:

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Rich People

Mark 10:23-27 “And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples,

How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But

Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, **Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!**

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And

they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith,

With men *it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*

It is impossible for a rich man to be saved – it is impossible for a sinner to become a saint – but with God all things are possible.”

God will save a rich man – God will save a poor man – both must come with nothing in their hand and **holding onto nothing...** That is the catch – **rich people tend to trust in their riches...**

God hath chosen the poor

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...

India has a caste system. I heard that the untouchables had about 15% Christians. Rest of India is 2.3% Christian.

James 2:6-7 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

“With a few noble exceptions, the upper classes persecuted the Christians in the days of the apostles. They harassed them with lawsuits. They slandered them before the judges. They cursed the blessed

Name of Christ which it is the mission of the Church to exalt. It was, therefore, contrary to "the spirit of a sound mind" to court the rich. To do so showed a deficiency of common sense. It indicated a lack of self-respect. And, above all, it was disloyal to the blessed Name." PULPIT HELPS

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

The Royal Law – the Law of the King – Love people / without respect of persons

Are you rich? You need to be saved

Are you poor? You need to be saved

The plan is the same for everyone:

You need to be faithful to church / learn to love God; obey the Bible; submit to will of God...

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Guilty or Not Guilty

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

James 2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

The law of vs. 10 – speaks of the 10 commandments as vs. 11 indicates

- **The perfection of the law**

There is nothing wrong with the law – only 10 commandments – nothing wrong with them

Back of bulletin – 10 commandments

10 commandments for dealing with God / Family / People

1-4 No other gods / no idols / not take name of God in vain

5 Honor parents – reverence to parents – whether dead or alive / good or bad / known or unknown

10 commandment – not covet – this is only commandment that legislates thought

Coveting often leads to evil – to breaking the 6th 7th 8th and 9th commandment

#6-9 6th – murder / 7th adultery / 8th stealing / 9th lying in perjury

Do not covet – neighbor's spouse; house; possessions

It belongs to them – do not lust to have their things

This is rooted in selfishness – we are not on earth to live selfishly / we are here to do the will of God

This is a legislation of thought – means God knows your thoughts & sees your heart

It also means we are responsible for ourselves – I control what I choose to think

- **The purpose of the law**

The law exposes our sinfulness –

Romans 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; **that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**

We are guilty by our sinfulness – no problem with law – problem with our sinful nature - -

We cannot be saved by the law

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

- **The person and the law**

Result of our inability to keep the law – guilty as sinners / guilty of sin

Everyone is guilty before God

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; **we have turned every one to his own way**; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Show our need of a Savior

To drive us to the Savior

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

God speaks to you

Creation you know there is a true God

Conscience this is right or this is wrong

Word of God Word exposes your heart (reading it or during preaching)

Holy Spirit Speaks to your spirit

God will speak to you – your response?

Ignore it / Resist it / Obey it – Yield to it --- few as we are willful creatures / prideful / rebellious

Preacher' job to preach the Bible with help of Holy Spirit – God will speak to you (My job & God)

Preacher's job to encourage you to be saved (My job & people)

Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

1 Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

When you get saved / when you get forgiven

The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from sin – it quiets the voice of conscience

The Holy Spirit bears witness with us that we are a child of God

From sinner to saint / from guilty to pardoned / child of devil to child of God
born physically to born again

- **The spirit of the law**

Believers shall be judged by law of liberty

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Heathen without the law – judged without the law

Unsaved that know Bible – judged by the Bible

Saved – have the Holy Spirit dwelling within – judged by law of liberty

Thou shalt not... Grace is always a greater law - a greater expectation

ILL Jesus told us:

Matthew 5:21-22 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...

Matthew 5:27-28 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

Believers are not to follow a list of rules – a list of do this and don't do that

Believers are to follow the spirit of the law

Motivated by love – love of God / love for God / love for people

Unsaved? You are guilty before God – there is hope

A real hope / you can be forgiven 100% forgiven

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

There is no sin God will not forgive

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him...

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Be forgiven today – give your heart to Jesus Christ & trust His blood as payment for your sins

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Faith & Works

Text James 2:14-20 We are saved by faith. 5 times Paul tells us it is by faith – without works:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

James tells us that faith without works is dead. If you are saved, you will have works.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

The devils believe

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

If one says – “I believe” “I’m saved” “I trust Jesus Christ as my Savior” – are they saved?

A genuine faith is more than what one says with their mouth – it is in the heart.

Of no use –

ILL I need food & clothes – lip service = NO USE

James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?

This is of no use – even so --- to say but not have in your heart:

ILL I am saved – only lip service = NO SALVATION

The only one you need to convince is God

Matthew 15:7-8 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

Faith comes from God

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation – LIFE in your spirit

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

There is only one kind of Christian in the Bible – a born again Christian – birth from the Holy Spirit

George Whitefield – old preacher dead long time ago - - they said, Mr. Whitefield, you have preached Ye must be born again over 3,000 times, why? He replied, Because Ye must be born again.

ILL My New Birth – a particular time & place / life within my heart / change from inside out

Would you ask God – God, does the Holy Spirit live in me? Let Him answer you! He will

Then Obey God – church is a place to respond to God – not just be entertained!

There is an active and passive voice in language. I love is active / I am loved is passive.

At a funeral – Undertaker is active and corpse is passive.

Some think church – pastor is active & members are passive...

Preaching is to Change You / Change Your Life

If you are merely passive, you might as well be dead

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

If you have come to GBC for years and you are still the same – there is something wrong. Change ought to be a constant for the Christian.

Life produces Fruit on a tree – natural for fruit to grow

Trees do not have to put forth effort – it is just a natural process...

Christians are not perfect – they have fruit from the Holy Spirit living within

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

We do not have to work it up; try extra hard – it is already inside of us – we need to allow the Lord to live thru us...

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Fruit is Love, Joy, Peace...

When I first got saved – would marvel at the love and joy and peace I had – a 20 year old – not a church goer – but gave my heart to Jesus Christ and He changed me from inside out.

A loving spirit / a giving spirit / an unselfish spirit / a merciful spirit / a kind spirit / a gentle spirit

1 John 3:17-18 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

27 times the word *know* is found in 1 John:

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

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Faith of Abraham & Rahab

Text: James 2:20-26

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?

When one gets saved by faith, it is only natural to live a life of faith. There will be degrees of faith, but every saved person will have faith. The entire Christian life is a life of faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Matthew 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Colossians 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

God wants you to be a person of faith. A faith that will not get you to church is not likely to take you to heaven.

Works are an evidence that you have saving faith. James 2:20 & 2:26

You say you love coffee --- Do you own a coffee cup?

You say you love the Lord – Do you have joy? Do you have peace? Do you love the Word of God? Do you give? Do you love missions? Do you know the Holy Spirit lives in you?

❖ You can be a person of faith

God is no respecter of persons – anyone can be a person of faith!

How? By obeying God.

**Will you say NOW – “God, if you speak to my heart, I will obey you no matter what.”
If you do that from your heart, faith is available to you.**

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:35-36 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

| | |
|---|--|
| Abraham was a man | Rahab was a woman |
| Abraham was called out of Ur of Chaldees – He was a heathen man | Rahab was a harlot living in Canaan land |
| Abraham had special training | Rahab did not |

Both were people of faith You can be a person of faith

Abraham got saved by faith

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Then he lived by faith

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

❖ **Faith is to obey what you know**

Faith is obey what you know & to risk all

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

The only thing Abraham knew – to go out – he risked all & obeyed

Rahab knew little or nothing of God's great plan of salvation; of all the exceeding great and precious promises God had made to Israel; of salvation daily demonstrated in the brazen altar and the sacrifice. She only knew she was doomed and therefore pleaded for a salvation she knew could only come from Israel's God. And God honored her faith.

Like Rahab, you do not need to know everything about God – just obey what you know – and God will lead you to understand Bible salvation

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

❖ **Faith – total faith is to RISK ALL**

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 4:19-20 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the **Lord** shall be saved.

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

God will wean you away from the earthly to the heavenly. Note Heb. 11:13

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Strangers – away from home

Pilgrims – going home

Song – This world's not my home, I'm just a passing thru, my treasure's are laid up; somewhere beyond the blue, the angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world any more.

❖ **Faith will father children Life Reproduces Life**

Genesis 17:4 As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, **and thou shalt be a father of many nations.**

Abraham – Isaac – **Jacob – 12 tribes of Israel**

Genesis 25:16 These *are* the **sons of Ishmael... twelve princes according to their nations.**

Sarah was 127 yrs old in Gen 23 and died / 2 chapters later he marries Keturah:

Genesis 25:1 Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

Gen 25 Keturah & Abraham had 6 children

Romans 4:11: that **he might be the father of all them that believe...**

1 Corinthians 4:15 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.

We are to reproduce our faith – sharing the gospel / our testimony to the lost

❖ **Faith has a foundation – the Word of God or the Will of God – revealed by the Holy Spirit**

Faith is an action word – Hebrews 11 – by faith...they did something

They found the will of God – as the foundation for faith

- Word of God teaches you to do something...

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, **that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:** for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

- The Holy Spirit leads you to do something...

ILL 18 years ago – 2 Sundays – Ok, I will take pastorate at GBC – I left 18 acres to move 350 miles to Detroit metro area – time proves out the will of God

8 years before that – I went to a new church – about 3 weeks old – had 14 and \$83 offering – after 2 Sundays, Ok, I will pastor that church. \$0 money in bank – promise of 2 weeks severance pay and took church 60 miles away – time proves out the will of God

❖ **Faith or Sight is a “fork in the road”**

Get Saved or stay Lost

Give your whole heart to God – risky for a human – or stay lost and not risk

After salvation: Obey God or Love this world and what it offers

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? **whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

Faith is within your grasp – Abraham was a heathen / Rahab was a harlot / You can be a person of faith

Willing to give of your will / willing to trust God / Give your whole heart to the Creator

- **Give your heart to God today**
- **Trust Him with your life**
- **Yield your will to God – the Creator**

An easy concept – we are sinners and willful

It is not that salvation is difficult / it is not that faith is difficult / the problem rests with us

- **Give your heart to God today**
- **Trust Him with your life – trust His blood to forgive your sins**
- **Yield your will to God – the Creator**

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Greater Damnation

Text: James 3:1 / Matt. 23:5-14

James 3:1 My brethren, **be not many masters**, knowing that we shall **receive the greater condemnation**.

Word Study – 2 words in this are interesting – the words *Masters & Condemnation*

Masters teacher; as a title of dignity and respect *master, teacher*; in the NT equivalent Rabbi

Condemnation *condemnation, punishment, judgment*

The English translation for this word is:

AV - judgment 13, damnation 7, condemnation 5, be condemned 1

Don't be many masters

Receive the greater condemnation

We will look at these 2 concepts

Matthew 23:5-12 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And **love** the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and **to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi**. But **be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren**. And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even Christ*.

But he that is **greatest among you shall be your servant**. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye **shall receive the greater damnation**.

➤ **Don't be many masters**

Masters – Rabbi to lord over another as they *teach*.

“The *evil* appears to have prevailed among those to whom he wrote, *to be public teachers*, and to be such even where there was no proper qualification

The evils which grow out of an improper use of the *tongue*; evils to which those are particularly liable whose business is *speaking*

There are many masters - persons who undertake to show us the way of salvation, who know nothing of being born again and are unsaved themselves. These are found among all descriptions of Christians, and have been the means of bringing the ministerial office into contempt.

Their case is awful; they shall receive greater condemnation than common sinners; they have not only sinned in thrusting themselves into that office to which God has never called them, but through their insufficiency the flocks over whom they have assumed the mastery perish for lack of knowledge, and their blood will God require at the watchman's hand." BARNES NOTES

Matthew 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren.

The pastor is servant. The greatest of all Christians is to be a servant.

Fellow- lowly servant of the King of kings / sinner saved by grace

➤ **Receive the greater condemnation**

Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall **receive the greater damnation**.

Mark 12:40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall **receive greater damnation**.

Luke 20:47 Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall **receive greater damnation**.

Just as there are degrees of rewards in heaven – there are also degrees of punishment in hell.

Those who lord over others with their tongue – Jesus warned of these religious rulers

They devour widows houses – after money – take from the most needy – widows

The love of money often has no limits

False teachers / False preachers are marked in 2 Peter chapter 2

2 Peter 2:1 But there were **false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers** among you, who privily shall **bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them**, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:3 And through **covetousness** shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2 Peter 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and **despise government**. Presumptuous *are they*, **selfwilled**, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

2 Peter 2:14 Having **eyes full of adultery**, and that cannot cease from sin; **beguiling unstable souls**: an heart they have **exercised with covetous practices**; cursed children:

The Tongue

Text: James 3:1-10

➤ Source of the Tongue

Here is a whole passage of Scripture warning us about the tongue. Everyone needs to hear this message. What is the source of the tongue? The heart:

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

The heart and tongue go together – what the tongue says starts in the heart.

The source of the tongue may also come from hell itself:

James 3:6 And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Even the apostle Peter was guilty of this:

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

We need to be wise with our use of the tongue.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

Proverbs 29:20 Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

➤ Greatness of the Tongue

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

The tongue is a small member, but it can be used to do great things:

ILL Horse

Referred to as a Free Spirit – a rebellious creature; wild by nature – turned about by a small bit

ILL Ship

Driven by fierce winds – yet turned about by small rudder

Small bit in horses' mouth / small rudder moves ships / small tongue can move whole body

➤ **Power of the Tongue**

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Can be used to bless God –

PTL pray tell of eternal life to give your testimony

You have the power to tell of how you got saved – with your tongue

You have the power to preach the gospel:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Exodus 4:10-12 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher?**

They will not hear about the good news if you do not tell.

Can be used to curse men

Only thing on earth made after the similitude of God – a human being

Never make fun of another human being – the way they are made or the way they look...

1. The tongue can destroy a life (I hate you- you're stupid)
2. It can lead to sin

Proverbs 1:10-11 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause...

Usually someone leads another to smoke cigarettes / to smoke marijuana / to try crack / to try heroin / to destroy property / to drink beer / to drink alcohol – typically do not do these things by yourself.

3. It can send a soul to hell

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

4. The tongue can spread like fire James 3:6a –“the tongue is a fire”

Fire spreads / destroys / consumes

ILL fire in N. Vernon – will consume anything – aerosol cans – do not put in fire – I put it in

Fire – hot enough will burn nearly anything – except asbestos

➤ **Controlling of the Tongue**

James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

ILL Animals tamed –

James 3:7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

You cannot tame / you cannot control your tongue

Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Remember: It works in conjunction with the heart

The best we can do – is ask God to help us:

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

These should be memory verses for you / for me

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A Life of Wisdom

James 3:13 Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Jesus said opposites cannot survive at the same time:

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

James 1:8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Faith or Doubt / Hearer only of Word or Doer of Word / Faith without Works or Faith with Works
Bless God or Curse Men / Sweet Waters or Bitter Waters / Wisdom or Strife & Envy

There are two kinds of wisdom – that which is from God and that which is not from God

James 3:14-15 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish.

Wisdom can come from God – being saved; led by the Holy Spirit; obeying the Bible; growing in grace

Or it can be (James 3:15)

Earthly / Sensual – of your soul / Devilish – from hell. Attributes of a wisdom that is not from God are:

Envying

Resentful attitude; harsh; cruel

Strife

Strife is rooted in a selfish life – self-seeking; selfish ambition; self-interest

James 3:16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

This earthly, sensual, devilish wisdom is characterized by:

Disruption, confusion, disorder, unruliness instability, a state of disorder, disturbance and every evil work!

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

These fruits of either godly wisdom or earthly wisdom would be in your heart and come out in your life in your treatment of people.

Wisdom on earth has to do with how you deal with people and things of this earth – primarily people – but also things.

First Pure Firstly – in the first place – it is pure –

No intent to do wrong – not manipulative or deceitful / no ulterior motives

Know why people give to our missions program – it has pure motives. Preaching ought to always have pure motives. Your life ought to always have pure motives.

Peaceable

Peace – opposite of strife / and then peace in your heart – priceless! I take it for granted; but there are tons of people that are without peace.

Gentle

Fair, equitable, mild, gentle

Easy to be intreated

Easily persuaded, compliant, congenial, open to reason

If you are used to obeying the Word of God & the Holy Spirit; you have learned to be pliable in your heart. If you have resisted the Lord – you are stiffnecked, hard-hearted, stubborn and not likely to have this trait.

We have learned – by living by faith – to be easy to be intreated... Easily persuaded, compliant, congenial, open to reason

Mercy

Compassion and kindness towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them

Having sympathy and pity demonstrating God's compassion, mercy and lovingkindness. It is a gracious action that is often not worthy of – but given because we are wise.

God is merciful to me / I need to be merciful to others.

I have been a bonehead; I need to be merciful to boneheads.

Good Fruits

Fruit is the result of seed planted, life given by water, sun and good weather. Fruit is the end result. If you live a life of faith; God will give you good fruits.

Some try to have fruits thru self-effort. It comes from God.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

You can only have wisdom that is from above – by being born-again.

Without Partiality & Without Hypocrisy

Genuine, sincere

The end result of a life of wisdom:

James 3:13 Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a **good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.**

Good Conversation – way of life; good behavior; who that person really is – just a good lifestyle

Meekness – gentleness, friendliness, consideration of others

“When we are mild and calm, we are best able to hear reason, and best able to speak it. Wisdom produces meekness, and meekness increases wisdom.”
Matthew Henry

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is **sown in peace of them that make peace.**

It is truly a life of peace.

How can I get this? It is free but not without cost.

It cost Jesus Christ His blood for you to be saved. He died so you could be wise and be saved and live the best life.

It is free but not without cost – it will cost you – you must give up – give all – give in

Give Jesus Christ 100% of your heart – lock, stock and barrel.

Ye must be born-again. Without it, you have wisdom from below.

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Friendship

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

There are two extremes. We can judge our Christian life according to where we are in relation to these two extremes.

- 1) Love of God (Jesus gave all for others) vs. Love of Money (Judas gave all for money)
- 2) Friend of God (Obey whatsoever He commands) vs. Friend of the World (1 John 2:15)

If you are saved – you are married to Jesus Christ

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead...

Eph. 5:31-32 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Eph. 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

To love this world – is to be an adulterer or an adulteress.
True love is jealous. True love “only has eyes for you” – a single-focused love.

What is the world?

1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Love of the world brings inner conflict / inner discontentment / inner disappointment

➤ **Inner Conflict**

James 4:1 From whence *come wars and fightings among you? come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Romans 7:23-24 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Where does this inner conflict come from?

James 4:1 From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Galatians 5:16-17 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

James 4:1 From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

- **It is a war – battlefield is your mind.**

Dictionary: “Of intensified spiritual warfare brought about by the presence of evil” – presence of evil is from the flesh – in espionage language it is called a *mole*. Your inner flesh is your greatest enemy.

Psalms 119:95 The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: *but* I will consider thy testimonies.

- **Inner Battle**

Should I get saved? What will people think? I want to get saved, but...

Saved – Lust of flesh – easy access to pornography; easy access to adultery; easy access to homosexuality; easy access to extra food; easy to buy food that you don't need;

lust of eyes – easy access to credit cards; easy access to just charge it; easy to convince yourself that others have new things, I should also; advertising makes it look so good;

pride – easy to justify yourself; defend yourself; puff up yourself...

Where does this worldliness come from?

James 4:1 From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? ***come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?**

What is the answer?

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- **Inner Discontentment**

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Ye have not – because ye ask not – don't pray because you are all into yourself.

Then when ye pray – don't receive – because you are all into yourself...

As the earth revolves around the sun – so life does not center around you – life revolves around the Throne of God

What is the answer?

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

➤ **Inner Disappointment**

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, **that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.**

Dictionary: *spend, waste, use up* – a selfish reason....

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

God gives, gives, gives and forgives. We get, get, get and forget.

What is the answer?

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

➤ **Upper Problem – your relationship with God is paramount**

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

It is more than just a selfish interest – you may actually are becoming an enemy of God – or you are now an enemy of God.

Most have one foot in world – one foot in church --- cannot be happy in the world because they are too churchy and cannot be happy in church because they are too worldly.

Bible tells us:

Unsaved = Child of Devil

Saved = child of God

Obey & Submit = Friend of God

Saved & Friend of World = Enemy of God

Things to consider:

Ps. 119:95 / Gal. 2:20 / Acts 9:6 / Matt. 6:33

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Relationship

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

How can we have a proper relationship with God? The Lord has made a powerful statement and now He will tell us how we can have this proper relationship.

How God responds to man

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

There is another verse similar to this one:

1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, *all of you* be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God**, that he may exalt you in due time:

Humility is not:

I am nothing / I am a piece of garbage / Walk all over me / I walk slouched over...

Humility is a position of your heart before God – leads to meekness before men – not weakness.

God **resists** the proud

God **gives grace** to humble

Humble before God – lowly, weak, --- who we truly are / see ourselves in need of God

This is what God does – He sees your heart. He either resists you or gives you grace.

Our response to God – what we should do

➤ The starting point is to Submit

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We are not to resist God, but resist the devil. Those who do not submit to God are resisting Him.

Stephen preached this as he was being killed:

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.

God pricks your heart / tugs on your heart / uncomfortable – that is God.

Submit – to God – Creator – Judge of all the earth... He loves you / wants what is best for you

Opposite of submitting to God – resist / willful / proud

➤ **Then three actions to follow our submitting to God**

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

1. Draw Nigh

The ball is in our court. God responds to our response! We draw nigh; He draws nigh!

We resist; He resisteth the proud...

2. Cleanse your hands – ye sinners

Confess your sins – have proper actions. Here is an example:

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Our nature is to sin. Cleanse our hands – have our life line up with our words.

3. Purify your hearts – ye double minded

Here is how we can come full circle and be right with God. Double minded – love God, love the world. This is James 4:4 – so here is solution so we are not living as an enemy of God.

A rather simple message – but difficult to follow as we, as humans, are willful. Lucifer fell as a willful creature. The Antichrist is the *Willful King*. We are to submit – then...

Submit / Draw Nigh / Cleanse our hands / Purify our hearts = Right with God!

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Seriousness of Life

James 4:9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness.

Paul said, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."
James 4:9 is part of the whole counsel of God.

There is a seriousness of life if we ponder the reality of it.

Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness. Why? Because on a personal level, you will experience hardships and heartaches and the reality of souls and their destiny.

➤ **Be Afflicted – personal level - endure hardship**

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

James 5:10-11 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Good report

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

Affliction

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

ILL I thought the Christian life would be wonderful. Not told, or you would flee as quickly as possible.

Proverbs 24:10 *If* thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength *is* small.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

➤ **Mourn & Weep – others**

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

7 ½ billion souls will spend eternity in heaven forever or hell forever. Does that not stir you?

300,000 souls within 5 miles of GBC – does that not stir you? Do you see eternal souls – or people that are just a bother to your selfish life?

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

This last invitation given in the Bible is spurned by multitudes. Does that not cause you to mourn?

Does not this stir you?

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Psalms 126:5-6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Hell forever – what does that do to your heart?

2 Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Acts 26:27-29 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Almost persuaded – but Lost!

Reality – you will suffer personal hardships, heartaches and trials

Reality – Death is sure, Heaven is grand, Hell is forever

Focus on Yourself

James 4:10-12 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of *his* brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

As we live life on this earth, it is always easier to find fault with others rather than examining our own selves.

We need to focus on ourselves first – I have more than enough problems with me – do not need to concern myself with flaws, sins, and faults of others.

Matthew 7:3-5 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

➤ **We start with... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.**

Humility is between You & God, the Creator

Humility is a voluntary submission

Sometimes the more Bible we know, in pride, we want to be critical of others. The more Bible we know ought to cause us to be more humble before the One Who knows our hearts.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, **piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

The Bible teaches that the closer you get to God, the more sinful you know that you are!

➤ **When we speak evil of people – we are violating the law ---**

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of *his* brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Jesus said – the essence of the law (the whole O.T.) is to love your neighbor as yourself.

When you speak evil = judging brother

Speak evil of law = judge the law

When we speak evil of a person, we become a judge rather than a doer of the law

There is only 1 Judge – He is the Judge of all the earth. It is NOT our job to judge, but TO DO....

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Why do we not judge others?

- 1) **Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- 2) We cannot look into the heart of others. We cannot judge motives, only outward actions. God looks at the heart and He is the Judge of all the earth (1 Sam. 16:7)
- 3) We can look into our own heart – that is where we can be the judge of motives, thoughts, and intents

➤ **We need to examine ourselves – this is Biblical**

- Examine yourself to be sure that you have been born-again.

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

- Examine yourself for any unconfessed sin.

1 Cor. 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

- The only one who can examine us in all honesty is the Lord – ask Him to examine us.

Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Our focus needs to be on our own heart. As we do this, keep in mind

The Holiness of God
Our Great Need as Sinners
One eye on the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ
One eye on Heaven
Mind our own business – look past others' sins

➤ **The end result of this is...**

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, **and he shall lift you up.**

Our true value / our confidence in life / our proper way to be lifted up is for the Lord to do the promoting.

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Life in View of Eternity

Text: James 4:13-17

This text is one that has had a great impact on my life. When I got saved, at the age of 20, verse 14 transformed my life.

I knew that if I lived to be 100, I did not have time to waste – as my life was going to be --- exactly like the Bible says – like a vapor, that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

One may view verse 14 as a philosophy of life. And yes, it is a philosophy. But in 1,000 years from today, it will be more than a philosophy, it will be a reality.

Zig Ziglar said, “Make long term goals, because you will be dead a whole lot longer than you will be alive.”

If you came to church today – and you did, what you hear this morning ought to change your life. Some refuse to change, some do not consider changing, but there are some of you – that are open to change.

For those of you that have an open mind to the stark reality of eternity – the reality of the truth of the Bible – that you will live for ever; this message ought to move you to be a better, more committed Christian.

Your life is but a vapor – not as you live it – but when you compare it to the length of your death. You will be dead for 50 years, then 100 years, then 1,000 years, then 1 million years, then 1 billion years, then 1,000 billion years.... Infinity

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Go to now, ye that say – probably what was in their mind, not actually expressed.

Go to now, ye that say – you have something you are saying to yourself – it is Your Will

What the Bible is actually teaching in these verses – the main thing it is teaching is that we are not put on earth to do our will; but we ought to consider the will of the Lord in all we do.

The reason we ought to consider the will of the Lord – vs. 14!

Go to now, ye that say...vs. 15 **that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall** live, and do this, or that.

Self-Reliance is a bad thing – because life does not revolve around you

Psalms 39:5 Behold, thou hast made my days *as* an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah.

It is ok to plan – **Paul had a plan**

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

But the foundation of Paul's plan was:

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?** And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Acts 26:19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

Rich man in the Bible had a plan

Luke 12:17-18 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19-20 And I will say to my soul, **Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years**; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, **this night thy soul shall be required** of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Death is uncertain. The foundation of the certainty of tomorrow is vapor – what will happen tomorrow? Unknown, uncertain – like trusting on sinking sand

Saved have tasted of heaven – we need to live for heaven.

Hebrews 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Live for that which will matter in 100 years. Lasting value comes from living for that which really matters.

- Name 3 of the spies from Numbers 13 – Joshua & Caleb
- Name a Jew that lived during the time of Daniel besides Daniel and 3 Hebrew children
- Name someone that lived in the 1400's
- **Mark 14:3** And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured *it* on his head.
- **Mark 14:9** Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, *this* also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

Conclusion

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. **For what is your life?** It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Your life – no one can live your life for you. It belongs to you. You decide. You choose.

Consider these verses:

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night.

Psalms 90:12 So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

Would you decide to live for eternity? How can I do this?

1) Yield to the will of the Lord

James 4:15 For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

2) Let the Lord decide:

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Your Time / Timing of life – today or tomorrow

Location – we will go into such a city

Making money / career – buy & sell and get gain

Would you ask the Lord – where do you want me to live? What do you want me to do with my time and money? What career do you want me to pursue? Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

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Warning to the Rich

Text: James 5:1-6

Rich people – rich is a relative term. It all depends on who you ask. We will try to go thru these verses and explain what the Bible says and then have an application for all of us. Perhaps the *rich* described in these verses are for the Wall Street shysters.

I do remember in 2002, Worldcom / MCI had \$11 billion in debt with much fraud. That was just the tip of the iceberg in fraudulent activity in the financial world.

There is a dreadful day ahead for the rich

James 5:1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

James 1:10-11 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Read Ps. 73:2-7 & 12 / Psalms 73:18-20 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they *brought* into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when *one* awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

Proverbs 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Proverbs 11:28 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

There is no stability in riches

James 5:2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

Deceitfulness of riches / foundation – rock – not money, Jesus Christ

Mark 4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

What will come of riches? Moth eaten garments – they will be corrupted – rot and decay.

Where will the USD be in 100 years? In 1,000 years?

Know what I just found out – in Silicon Valley is FB, Google, Apple and Yahoo headquarters. Stability? – what about the fault lines in California. Only true stability is in the Lord.

ILL Uncle – multi millionaire – lived fairly frugal – left it all to the Opera House & Marquette University. Irony in their frugality paid for the University to spend it.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Riches shall witness against you

James 5:3 Your gold and silver is **cankered; and the rust of them** shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. **Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.**

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where **moth and rust doth corrupt**, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

James 5:3 ...riches hoarded... is typical of the Last Days

Selfishness is at the root of this – how much money would you like? MORE

The cry of those you have betrayed enter ears of the Lord

James 5:4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

Their fraud – they have oppressed and wronged the employee or the slave that was doing the work for them. The cries of the poor come into the ears of the Lord.

Riches bring ease

James 5:5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

We are not put on earth to live in pleasure – but to glorify the Creator.

Hebrews 11:24-25 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Rich people are often the enemy of the gospel

James 2:6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

Conclusion

If you are rich – you have been warned.

If you are not rich – what does this have to do with me?

How to get money: God intends people to work for money – no such thing as free things – someone has to pay for your *free things*.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

God intends everyone to give money

Thieves are to quit stealing and work – and then **give** of what they have from working to others!

Ephesians 4:28-29 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

We should not compare ourselves with the rich

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

There is a dreadful day ahead; not just for the rich. We will give account/what we did with what we had

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Luke 16:2 ...How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship...

There is no real stability on this earth outside the Lord Jesus Christ

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is* the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.

Money is a tool to accomplish things

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

We need wisdom on this earth as we live our life.

Everyone has a different approach to money and wealth. The Bible is a book of principles and does not micro-manage your life.

I tried to present this message in the form of principles and allow the hearer to apply the Bible as you feel led of the Lord.

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Be Patient – Jesus is Coming Back

Text: James 5:7-11

Be patient be unto the coming of the Lord

What that means

1 The. 4:13-17 / 1 Cor. 15:51-54

Body will be changed into a glorified body

Heaven will be our home forever

Faith will be turned into sight

Heartaches will be over

Problems will be over

Will see the Blood of Jesus Christ on Mercy Seat – why I will be in heaven

Will soon experience the JSC & MSL

In these verses, there are 3 examples of patience and 3 admonitions for us

3 Examples of Patience

1) **Patience of the Farmer** - waits for harvest vs. 7

Behold... the husbandman... --- behold – pay attention / consider this

He has long patience for it

He has assurance of it

Be patient – with an expectancy for it... This we say unto you by the Word of the Lord...

He trusts the Lord for rain for it

Farmer waiting for precious fruit – we are to do what we can to get some saved – precious fruit before Jesus comes back.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him **should not perish**, but have everlasting life.

Not perish – fruit will perish if it is not picked.

Early & Latter rain – God giveth the increase / we are to be busy sowing the seed

2) **Patience of the Prophets** – suffered affliction & had patience

Prophets in all ages have suffered affliction – misery, been courageous in trials' persevered; endured

Those that endure = happy!

Rather suffer affliction than enjoy pleasures of sin for a season.

Happy – because on the inside – right with God

Happy – there will be rewards in heaven for affliction.

Happy – will get sooo glad in heaven that I did that which is right.

They endured / They had patience

Let us follow their example.

Hebrews 11:33-37 Who through faith...and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

3) **Patience of Job** vs. 11

Seen end of Lord – it is all good

Lord is pitiful / Lord is of tender mercy / compassionate

We can criticize the Lord – but just wait to see the end of the Lord – He is all wise / All will be ok.

3 Admonitions for Us

- Stablish your hearts - vs. 8

what does stablish mean – fixed / established / set up to be immovable

Why / How can our hearts be stablished? The Solid Rock on which we stand.

When everyone else is going crazy in instability – your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is founded upon a Solid Rock.

- The coming of the Lord draweth nigh vs. 8

It will be soon – “just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away...”

- We will answer to God for our life vs. 9

Grudge not – don’t complain, grumble...

A subtle reminder that we will give an account to the Judge of all the earth

There are three Beholds

Behold vs. 7 wait for

vs. 9 will give an account

vs. 11 happy if ye endure

Praying & Singing

James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

That is, be especially careful on this point; whatever else is done, let not this be. The manner in which James speaks of the practice referred to here, shows that he regarded it as a sin of a very heinous nature; one that was by all means to be avoided by those whom he addressed. The habit of swearing by various things was a very common one among the Jews, and it was important to guard those who from among them had been converted to Christianity on that subject.

James is reminded of teaching of Jesus

Matthew 5:33-37 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

“Everybody curses and swears when in a passion. No people that I have ever known can compare with these Orientals for profaneness in the use of the names and attributes of God.” (Commentary)

Many ask God to damn something or someone... or they can all go to hell!

Above all things, my brethren, swear not -- guard yourselves with care against the sin of profanity...lest ye fall into **condemnation (hypocrisy)**.

Profane swearing is a great sin.

It is utterly opposed to the Christian patience and long-suffering

This sin is very easily committed.

Our corrupt nature is prone to it. The temptations are abundant.

Swearing is a ruinous sin.

This is a besetting sin – and it leads to hypocrisy / condemnation....

ILL George J. – working on his house and frustrated --- Lord, why don't you just burn this place down... it burned down within couple of weeks. (personal testimony)

“Lord, if you get me out of this, I promise I will”.... --- better carry thru with it.

Rather to say: “By grace of God, I will do this or that – not promise to God.”

James reminds us several times to guard against our tongue:

James 1:19 ...my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.

James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren...

James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth...

James 5:13-18 is a passage that tells us life will have good times and bad times.
In good times, sing and in bad times, pray.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Philippians 4:11-12 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Good Times

James 5:13 Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Thank God for good times. Thank God for blessings. Thank God we can sing, smile, laugh, rejoice. God did not make us stoic, unemotional creatures.

Emotions come from the psyche – and they help us in life.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...

Bad Times

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.

James 5:14 Is any sick among you?

Typically as we live, we will experience both good times and bad times:

Pray if afflicted – hardships / misfortunes

Pray if Sick – ill health

Prayer works – Elijah prayed

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Elijah was a man

Same sinful nature / same passions / same feelings

He prayed earnestly

He prayed for no rain – it did not rain (got what he asked for)

He prayed again – got what he asked for

Luke 11:11-12 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Prayer –

James 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

- **Effectual / Fervent** – put energy to it; have passion in asking God

Isaiah 38:5 Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

Psalms 34:6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalms 34:17-19 *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

- **Prayer** – asking God for help
- **Righteous Man** – living godly

If sick or afflicted – pray

- **Availeth Much**

It can change your outcome or

It can change your heart

It can change your attitude

It can give you grace in your affliction

God wants us to pray about our situation

The New Convert

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Err from the truth... and one convert him – cause to return

Convert the sinner from error of his way...

Error of his way – his way; his path; his road... to “I am the way...” from my path to His path:

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

What is the way that leads to destruction – broad is the way... there are several ways a person can stay lost:

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; **we have turned every one to his own way**; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Way of sinner – skeptic / atheist / wicked sinner / religious Baptist – God has no grandchildren...

ILL Saw on TV – a pastor’s son preach – said he has been a Christian since he was an infant. What he was actually saying was – I am not born again, but I have deceived myself and I am lost.

What is Bible conversion?

Psalms 51:13 *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 15:3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

5 elements in conversion – all 5 describe the same event!

- **Born Again**

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

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.

- **Faith in the Blood**

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

- **Repentance & Faith**

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

- **Father Draws to Salvation**

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

- **Born of the Spirit – Holy Spirit give a New Birth**

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

The power is of God but the instrument that God uses is a human being. Dick Shipp was instrumental in me getting saved, but it was truly the work of the Lord that saved me.

End Result of Bible Conversion

- Multitude of sins forgiven
- Save a soul from death

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, **shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

Trinity in relation to believer:

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

Holy Spirit tells you that you are saved

Holy Spirit comforts you

Holy Spirit convicts you when you sin

Holy Spirit gives you fruit of love, joy, peace...

Holy Spirit speaks to you with Bible & Bible preaching

Christ is in you – in your heart

Son of God is your personal Saviour

Father loves you

Father provides for you

Father chastens you

Amazing how humans can be in similar position and yet get exactly the opposite results.

2 thieves on a cross next to Jesus – one got saved; one stayed lost:

Luke 23:39-42 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Acts 28:24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

Some will receive the gospel message with great joy and understanding while to some, it brings hostility, and yet others will have indifference.

The gospel draws and wins one to Christ while the other repels and is condemned.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;

prove your own selves.

Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Have you had a true Bible conversion?

Does Jesus Christ reside in your heart – check your heart – does He live there?

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