

James: Introduction:

There are four James's mentioned in the Bible.

James is the English form of Jacob, supplanter.

1. The first James was one of the Apostles.

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

¹⁷And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

¹⁸And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

¹⁹And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

²⁰And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

b. Son of Zebedee and Salome.

c. Elder brother of the Apostle John.

Mark 1:19

¹⁹And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

d. He was a Fisherman.

e. He was one of The Apostles with Jesus at the Transfiguration.

Matthew 17:1-2

¹And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

²And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

f. He was killed by Herod.

Acts 12:1-2

¹Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

²And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

2. The second James was called James the Less.

a. He too was an Apostle.

Acts 1:13

¹³And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, **James the son of Alphaeus,** and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

b. The son of Alphaeus. As we just read in Acts 1:13

3. The third James mentioned was the father of the Apostle Judas (not Iscariot). Not much in about him.

4. Fourthly we have James The Lord's brother; or correctly half-brother. He's first mentioned in: **Matthew 13:53-56**

⁵³And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

⁵⁴And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, **James**, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

⁵⁶And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

Mark 6:3 says:

³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

Paul writing to the Galatians in:

Galatians 1:19

¹⁹But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

b. At first he was not a believer in the claims of his half brother, The Lord Jesus Christ that he was the Messiah.

In John 7:5 we read:

⁵For neither did his brethren believe in him.

c. He became a believer after The Resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:7

⁷After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

d. He was head of The Church in Jerusalem.

e. He gave the Apostle advice in Acts 21.

f. Jewish historian Josephus reports that James was martyred by a High Jewish Priest at about 62 A.D.

From The Bible: The General Epistle of James:

The epistle has 5 chapters, 108 verses and 2304 words.

The book is almost entirely practical often being called “The Proverbs” of The N.T. It’s:

1. Authoritative

James does not hesitate to tell you what you should do. You can't even read the letter casually without recognizing that James preaches to us from a superior position. He commands and even rebukes and never apologizes for it. No OT prophet ever spoke with more authority. In this brief letter of 108 verses there are 54 imperatives (commands).

2. Practical

It is evident that James' purpose is not to instruct us merely in what to believe but in what we should do because of what we believe.

3. Relevant

The personal issues which James deals with are as contemporary as tomorrow's news!

4. Jewish

Addressed to the 12 tribes of the dispersion, the whole mental atmosphere of the letter is Jewish. He mentions that Abraham is their

father (2:21), God is called The Lord of Sabbaoth (5:4, only time in NT), His illustrations are often from the OT, and the whole approach is that of an OT prophet. It is the most Jewish writing of the NT.

5. Different from Paul

Much has been made of James' difference from Paul. The two apostles each begin their letters with a salutation, but the similarity seems, at times, to end there. This is true, to some extent, in regard to style as well as content. Martin Luther's opinions about James are well known (as are most of Luther's opinions!). "It is a right strawy epistle," he said, because of James' emphasis on works rather than faith. (In typical Luther fashion: "At the University of Wittenburg, we fire our stoves with the epistle of James.") This is simply a misunderstanding of James, and Luther is said to have moderated his views later in life. This misunderstanding stems from a failure to recognize the issues in focus in James and Paul—they are not standing face to face fighting each other but back to back fighting different enemies. Paul attacks the idea that a man can be saved by works and so emphasizes faith. James attacks the idea that a man's faith may be dead (i.e., unproductive) yet real, and so James emphasizes works. The two men are not contradictory but complementary to each other.

6. Identical to Paul

For the record, it should be understood that everything James says is also found in the writings of Paul. Compare Rom. 2:6-10 & Eph. 2:8-10 to James 2:1, 5, & 23. Also, it should be noted that the two often use the same terminology with different meanings. The "works" Paul attacks are those which pretend to save; the "works" James demands are those which demonstrate salvation.

7. Similar to Jesus

It has been said that if John rested on Jesus' bosom, James sat at his feet. James preserves more of Christ's teaching than all the other epistles

combined. He never actually quotes his older brother, but he seems to constantly refer to his teachings as a basis for his own. There are at least 10 parallels to Jesus' sermon on the mount, and for almost everything we read in James we can recall some statement of Jesus which may have suggested it. This is so pervasive that even when the parallels fail, many are inclined to suspect that James may be repeating some unrecorded teaching of our Lord. This is all the more interesting seeing that James was an unbeliever until after Jesus' resurrection. (Cf. Mt. 5:48 & James 1:4, Mt. 7:7 & James 1:5, Mk. 11:23 & James 1:6, Mt. 7:24-26 & James 1:22, Mt. 7:1 & James 4:11-12, Mt. 23:12 & James 4:10, Mt. 7:16 & James 3:12, etc.)

Some comparison examples:

Matthew 7:16

¹⁶Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

James 3:12

¹²Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Matthew 23:12

¹²And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

James 4:10

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

It's written to "the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad" in verse one of James chapter 1.

Now we have three debates going on about the Epistle of James.

1. The first debate is: Who are The 12 Tribes which are scattered abroad?

a. The majority opinion is that they are “Christian Jews” of the Dispersion. They’re Jews who converted to Christianity, and were part of the Dispersion; they were dispersed or exiled from Israel.

And that James felt a Pastoral responsibility to these scattered people.

b. The second opinion is that James is written to Jews. “The Israel of God”

Paul writes of them in Galatians 6:16

¹⁶And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, **and upon the Israel of God.**

Paul writes of “Spiritual Jews in:

Romans 2:28-29

²⁸For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

²⁹But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

2. The second debate is date it was it written.

a. Again the majority view is that it was written about 62 A.D.

b. The second opinion is that it was written much earlier at 37-39 A.D., thus making it one the first New Testament books written.

3. The third debate is: Who wrote the Epistle?

a. The majority opinion is that it was James the half-brother of Jesus, who wrote this Epistle. Much about his character is revealed what is known about him. This choice is also in keeping with tradition which tells us that he remained in Jerusalem and that Peter, James, & John chose James, the brother of Jesus to be the pastor of the Jerusalem church after the ascension of Christ. The fact that he does not so identify himself (as The Lord's brother) may be an indication of his humility, but it also reveals the standing and personal authority he had in the opinion of his readers. "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" was an entirely sufficient identification to them.

Although Some think is it inconceivable that a brother of Jesus would have written such a letter without alluding to his special relationship to Christ or to his confrontation with the resurrected Christ.

b. The minority opinion is that it was The Apostle James – brother of The Apostle John wrote The Epistle of James. This James was the most prominent "James" in the gospels. He was one of the "sons of thunder," Brother of the great Apostle John. He was with Jesus at the Transfiguration, at the garden of Gethsemane; he was part of Jesus's inner circle.

But again, there is no Church tradition which backs up this claim.

James Study # 2 07/10/11

James 1

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

By review from last time:

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Verse 2

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

Temptation is a little different than testing or trials. You see God tests us and He puts us through trials, but he doesn't tempt us. Just look at verse # 13 in chapter # 1 which says:

13 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:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

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

I like how C.I. Scofield defines "Temptation" Temptation is a solicitation to do evil. Genesis chapter 3 is a good example of this. Let's turn there.

Genesis 3

¹Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

²And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

⁶And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Let's look at the many tricks the Devil uses in Tempting Eve.

Verse # 1 Temptation- The implied doubt of the benevolence (or goodness) of God. *Questioning God.*

Verses # 2 & 3 Temptation- Adding to the word of God. *We're not to add to God's word.*

Verse # 4 Temptation- The first lie. *Lying is sin.*

Verse # 5 Temptation- The appeal to pride.

Verses 6 & 7 The fall occurs.

The Devil solicited Eve to sin against God, and She and Adam died spiritually.

God tested David, when He asked him not to number the Children of Israel. Counting people does not result in death, but you've failed God's test.

Peter was Tempted and denied Jesus three times; it doesn't mean you have deny Jesus.

David was Tempted and failed. He lusted after Bathsheba, coveted another man's wife, and committed murder. You notice Bathsheba isn't mentioned much afterwards, but God makes sure David is chastised for the rest of his life.

When God tests you or puts you through a trial, it's a testing under trial. God may send you a \$1000. bucks unexpectedly and He wants to see

how you spend it. If you spend wisely He may send you some more, because He can trust you with money.

A few things about Temptation:

1. We're to Count it all joy in James 1:2

Temptation does not come from God.

James 1:13-14

13 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:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

2. The Devil is the Author of Temptation.

Matthew 4:1

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

3. It's a trial of our faith.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

4. Jesus said in Luke 22 "Pray that ye enter not into Temptation."

5. Everybody's tempted.

1 Corinthians 10:13 Says

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

There's no temptation that can over take you.

God is faithful.

God will not suffer you.

God's provided a way of escape.

God's provided a way to bear it.

What are some of the ways that God's made a way to escape temptation? I'm glad you asked!

1. Flee,

1 Corinthians 6:18 Says "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

Martin Luther King once said, "If you can't fly then run, just keep moving."

2. Quote Scripture correctly.

-Doing the Cross thing ++ just ain't gonna work.

Look what the Lord Jesus did in Matthew chapter 4:1-11.... Let's turn there.

When the Devil Tempted The Lord to change the stones into bread, to cast himself off the Holy City, and offered Him the Kingdoms of the world if He would only worship him, what did Jesus say?:

Matthew 4:10-11 says:

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. -Deut. 8:3

¹¹Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

He also quotes Deut. 8:3 in V.#4, Deut. 6:16 in V.#7

3. Sometime you gotta just fight.

You gotta put on the Whole Armor of God on in Ephesians chapter # 6, and say it's me and You Lord and we're fighting this battle.

Ephesians 6:11 says Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. You notice no protection for back...

Bill Sunday that great Evangelist in the early 1920's put on that amour of God and got rid of Alcohol, Amen!

Verses 2-4

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

Verse 3

³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Patience is one of the fruits of such a temptation, and the grace of patience is *worth* the temptation which it may cost to obtain the patience it.

Patience is good character thing to have.

You need patience raising a family, you need patience at the job, you need patience in the Church.

Psalm 37:7-9

⁷Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

⁸Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Verse 4

⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If you have Patience you'll be complete wanting nothing.

Romans 5:3

³And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Proverbs 15:18

¹⁸A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Julius Caesar Once said: "It is easier to find men who will volunteer to die, than to find those who are willing to endure pain with patience."

James Study # 3 07/17/11

James 1

H.A Ironside gives this Outline of The Epistle:

Chapter 1—Victorious Faith.

Chapter 2—Manifested Faith.

Chapter 3—Controlling and Energizing Faith.

Chapter 4—Submissive Faith.

Chapter 5—Patient and Expectant Faith.

Throughout the Epistle we will recognize a very close connection between its instruction and that given by our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5** to 7).

James' theme, then, is "religion", "outward religious service" as the expression and proof of faith. He does not exalt works as against faith, but faith as producing works. His style is that of the Wisdom-books of the O.T. It's been compared to the Book of Proverbs.

In our previous two Studies we did the Introduction and verses 1-4.

Verse 5

⁵If 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.

Wisdom means according to Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

The right use or exercise of knowledge; it is the knowledge and use of what is best, most just, most proper, most conducive to prosperity or happiness. Wisdom in the first sense, or practical wisdom, is nearly synonymous with discretion.

Proverbs 1

¹The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

²To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

³To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

⁴To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

⁵A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

⁶To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Again verse 5:

“let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally,”

Asking God for Wisdom is a good thing to ask God, why?

Because God’s the giver of Wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6

⁶For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

We all lack wisdom. Yet he does not charge us with our ignorance, God wants us to ask him for Wisdom.

Again verse 5:

“and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

Undraided means: Charged with something wrong or disgraceful; reproached; reprovved.

If you ask God for something, He’s not gonna charge us with something wrong or rebuke us.

He permits us to come in the most free manner, and meets us with a spirit of entire kindness, and with promptness in granting our requests.

How should attitude or actions be when we ask God?

Verse 6

⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

We ought to ask in Faith!

Mark 11:22-24

²²And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

²⁴Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Again verse 6:

“nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

The waves of the sea has no stability. It is at the mercy of every wind, storms and seems to be driven and tossed every way. So he then comes to God in faith.

We need to trust in God, He calms the Seas, the winds and Storms...

And we need to ask Him in Faith to give us calm life, a calm day...

Isaiah 57:20

²⁰But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

Wicked people live wild lives...

Us Christians are to live quite lives...

Paul writes in **1 Timothy 2:2**

“that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

Verse 7

⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A man can hope for favour from God only as he puts confidence in him.

Remember, God gonna answer your Prayer requests=His way!

Verse 8

⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Double minded means: **a)** wavering, uncertain, doubting
b) divided in interest.

****Double-minded - Literally means a man with 2 souls or 2 minds inside him.** One trusts God and one distrusts God. A Double-minded man doesn't know what/who to believe.

A double-minded man is never sure of anything. He goes from one calling to another and from one line of service to another,

A DOUBLE-MINDED CHRISTIAN DOESN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST.

Why? Verse 8 he's unstable.

A DOUBLE-MINDED CHRISTIAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.

James 4:8

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

****This has to do with a person who can't make up their mind between serving God or the world. This person desires the things of the world and the things of God. They cannot decide if Jesus is worth what it will cost them in the world system.** This describes much of the Church world today.

****Paul agrees clearly agrees with James.**

1Cor 10:21

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

****Jesus agrees with James in Mat 6:24.**

Matt 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.

Joshua 24:15 says:

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

You've got Double minded people in The Church.

Acts 5

¹But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

²And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

³But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Double minded: It's either The Holy Ghost or Satan...

Verses 9&10

⁹Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

Exalted means elevated; honored with office or rank; extolled; magnified; refined; dignified;

Verse 10

¹⁰But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

The phrase "of low degree" means one in humble circumstances; one of lowly rank or employment; one in a condition of dependence or poverty. It stands here particularly opposed to one who is *rich* (*verse 10*); and the apostle doubtless had his eye, in the use of this word, on those who had been poor.

Rich and poor, life's conditions change so that he who was well-to-do finds himself in comparative poverty, let him accept all as from the hand of Him who makes no mistakes.

Verse 11

¹¹For 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.

Man, after all, is but as grass and as the flower of the field; he soon passes from this scene, no matter how high or low his lot may be for the moment. The flower may flourish for a few days and be admired by all who behold it, but the heat of the sun soon withers it, and it fades and falls; even so men may have their hours of exaltation.

And as the saying goes: "Here today, gone tomorrow" Adios Amigo!

James 09/18/11

¹²Blessed 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.

¹³Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

A few things about Temptation:

Temptation, Blessed is the man that endureth it, right there in verse 12,

1. We're to Count it all joy in James 1:2

Temptation does not come from God.

Look at verse 13-14

13 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:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

2. The Devil is the Author of Temptation.

Matthew 4:1

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

3. It's a trial of our faith.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

4. Jesus said in Luke 22 “Pray that ye enter not into Temptation.”

5. Everybody’s tempted.

1 Corinthians 10:13 Says

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

There’s no temptation that can over take you.

God is faithful.

God will not suffer you.

God’s provided a way of escape.

God’s provided a way to bear it.

What are some of the ways that God’s made a way to escape temptation? I’m glad you asked!

1. Flee,

1 Corinthians 6:18 Says “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

Martin Luther King once said, "If you can't fly then run, just keep moving."

2. Quote Scripture correctly.

-Doing the Cross thing ++ just ain't gonna work.

Look what the Lord Jesus did in Matthew chapter 4:1-11.... Let's turn there.

When the Devil Tempted The Lord to change the stones into bread, to cast himself off the Holy City, and offered Him the Kingdoms of the world if He would only worship him, what did Jesus say?:

Matthew 4:10-11 says:

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. -Deut. 8:3

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

He also quotes Deut. 8:3 in V.#4, Deut. 6:16 in V.#7

3. Sometime you gotta just fight.

You gotta put on the Whole Armor of God on in Ephesians chapter # 6, and say it's me and You Lord and we're fighting this battle.

Ephesians 6:11 says Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. You notice no protection for back...

Bill Sunday that great Evangelist in the early 1920's put on that amour of God and got rid of Alcohol, Amen!

Look at the end of verse 12:

“for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

The Crown of Life: It's a reward; it's not like Eternal life, but a reward. Eternal life is a gift of God's Grace.

The Crown of Life is something a Christian earns, and its earned buy doing what?

Look at verse 12: by enduring Temptation.

This Temptation is a trial.

The word **Crown** means a circlet, chaplet, or diadem, Crowns are:

(1.) The emblem of royal dignity-- the symbol of office;

2 Chronicles 23:11

¹¹Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king.

(2.) The prize given to the victors in the public games,

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

²⁴Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

²⁵And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

(3.) A Crown is also used symbolically for honor or reward.

Proverbs 12:4

4A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

God Crowns in Psalm 103:4

⁴Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Proverbs 14:18

¹⁸The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

The crown is given to old people.

Proverbs 16:31

³¹The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

It's good to be a Grandparent:

Proverbs 17:6

⁶Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

God gave David a Crown.

Psalm 21:1-3

¹The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

²Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.

³For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.

Jesus was Crowned by God in Hebrews 2:9

⁹But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

(4.) You've got The Crown in The Tabernacle in Exodus chap.37.

(5.) You've got the High Priests Crown in Exodus chap. 28.

(6.) Jesus wore a Crown of Thorns on the Cross.

Matthew 27:29

²⁹And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

(7.) When Jesus returns He'll be wearing a Crown.

Revelation 14:14

¹⁴And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Crowns will be given to us Believers at The Judgment Seat of Christ.

1. The incorruptible crown: **1 Corinthians 9:24-25**

²⁴Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

²⁵And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

This is also called the imperishable crown. This crown is given to believers who faithfully run the race, who crucify every selfish desire in the flesh and point men to Jesus.

2. The crown of rejoicing: To those who faithfully are witnesses to the saving grace of God and leads souls to Jesus. This crown has also been named the soul winner's crown.

1 Thessalonians 2:19

¹⁹For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Daniel 12:3

³And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

3. The crown of life: For those believers who endure trials, tribulations, and severe suffering, even unto death. This crown is also referred to as the martyr's crown.

James 1:12

¹²Blessed 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.

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰Fear 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.

4. The crown of righteousness:. To those who love the appearing of Christ, who anxiously wait and look forward to the day when He will

return for His saints. This crown is given to those who have lived a good and righteous life for God while living down here on earth.

2 Timothy 4:8

⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

5. The crown of glory: This is the pastor's crown and will be given to the ministers who faithfully feed the flock of God. . This probably could also include preachers, teachers, Sunday School teachers, missionaries and all those who teach the Word of God in their respective ministries. This crown may signify the importance and sacrifices of bringing up others into the ways of God. God wants those who are saved to grow and learn as much as they can about Him, His Son and His Holy Spirit and to do that he uses mature believers who are willing to teach others.

1 Peter 5:1-4

¹The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

²Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

³Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

⁴And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

The Christian is exhorted that no man take his Crown.

Revelation 3:10-13

¹⁰Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

¹¹Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

¹²Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

¹³He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

And one Day we'll be giving them Crowns back to Jesus!

Revelation 4:10-11

¹⁰The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

And if you're a Borned again Christian, God's got a Crown for you, Amen!

Going back to James:

¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

That word enticed means: Incited; instigated to evil; seduced by promises or persuasions; persuaded; allured.

When you become enticed, you've now become part of it.

Here's a good question: What are some things that Entice people to sin?

How 'bout the TV? How 'bout the Computer...

The TV puts before your face everything you want, desire, don't have and lust after.

Just watch a Football game.

Muscle men Football players, hot looking Cheerleaders.

Are some people really watching the game?

Then the commercials...

The BMW car commercials, hot women selling everything, the Beer commercials...

And what are they enticing you to do?

Lust, covet

What's the Tenth Commandment?

Exodus 20:17

¹⁷Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Jesus says in:

Luke 12:15

¹⁵And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Here's the result of failing the Temptation:

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

How many have heard of the drug LSD?

There it is in verse 15: Lust+Sin=Death

How does Sin come about?

First you have the Presentation of it.

Then you have the Illumination of it.

You then Debate it.

You then make the Decision.

And finally you the Action.

And what's the result of Sin?

Verse 15: "and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Romans 6:23

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

Sin is death, Jesus Christ is Eternal Life!

And here's a Brotherly warning:

¹⁶Do not err, my beloved brethren.

James 09/25/11

What's interesting about James so far here in chapter one and we'll see it throughout the Book, is James moves around quickly from topic to topic.

In verse 2 he's talking about Temptation.

In verse 3- 6 he's talking about Faith, Patience & Wisdom.

In verse 8 he's talking about a double minded man.

In verses 9, 10 & 11 he's talking about poor and rich people.

Verses 12-15 he's talking about Temptation (again)

In verse 16 he gives us a Brotherly warning.

That's why The Book of James is often compared to The Book of Proverbs, they're written in a similar style.

Verse 17

¹⁷Every 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.

Every Good gift comes from God!

What's a Good gift?

- How 'bout Good Health? How 'bout Good Finances?
- How 'bout: "He comes from a Good Family!"
- He's a Good Boy! She's a Good Girl!
- How 'bout He/She comes from a Good Family!

- He/She get's Good Grades in School!
- They have a Good Relationship!
- He's got a Good sense of Humor!

Proverbs 17:22

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

- He's a Good Singer, She's a Good Musician!

Here's a few Bible verses on Good:

Good Doctrine, Proverbs 4:2

²For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. God's doctrine is good!

Wisdom, James 3:17

¹⁷But 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 18:22

²²Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 2:26

²⁶For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Philippians 1:6

⁶Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

The day you got saved God began a Good work in you

Matthew 5:44 We're commanded to do good:

⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Going back to Verse 17

¹⁷Every 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.

What's a Perfect gift from God?

Salvation, Eternal Life, The Holy Spirit that lives inside of you!

The Holy Bible.

Verse 17

“and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness,

Variableness means Inconstancy; fickleness; unsteadiness, changing; and James says that God doesn't change: No Variableness.

Hebrews 13:8

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

James verse 17:

“neither shadow of turning.”

When God says He’s gonna do something, He does it! God doesn’t quit!
Neither shadow of turning.

So if you got a Good gift you got it from God, and when you got Salvation, Eternal Life, The Holy Spirit that lives inside of you! The Holy Bible. You’ve got God’s perfect gift!

And I believe that God will judge you for what you did with that gift, He gave you!

Did you Sing for God or did you Sing for the world?

Many of the Entertainers were brought up in Church. Jerry Lee Lewis, many of the Blck groups from the 50’s and 60’s.

How ‘bout Elvis? He was brought up in Church!

“When I sang hymns back home with Mom and Pop I stood still and look like you feel when you sing a hymn,” Elvis told the *Charlotte Observer* in June 1956. “When I sing this rock and roll, my eyes won’t stay open and my legs won’t stand still. I don’t care what they say, it ain’t nasty.” And in a story in the *San Francisco News* on October 17, 1956, Elvis insisted that although he no longer attended church, he was still a good Christian.

“All good things come from God. (He quoting James here) You don’t have to go to church to know right from wrong,” he explained. “Sure, church helps, but you can be a Christian so long as you have a Christian heart.”

Elvis did sing and record Gospel Records.

And I also got these quotes as well:

“I am not the King. Jesus Christ is the King. I'm just an entertainer.”

“Since I was two years old, all I knew was gospel music. That music became such a part of my life it was as natural as dancing.”

His autopsy detected fourteen different drugs in his bloodstream, ten in significant quantity.

I don't want to judge Elvis, He did tell people that he was a Born Again Christian.

Look at verse 8 in James 1:

⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

That's what we might have here...

Verse 18

¹⁸Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

We are "begotten" to be his children is by his *will*. He purposed it, and it was done. Through the Word of Truth. Through Jesus Christ, by reading His word The Holy Bible.

On this verse Barnes says in his notes: “We owe the beginning of our spiritual life to God.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

How's it done? Romans 10:17

¹⁷So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

James 4:8

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

And Finally Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour!

John 3:16

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

Verse 18

“that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

Cross reference that with:

1 Corinthians 15:22-23

²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Verse 19

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

Sounds like Proverbs again!

swift to hear= be ready to hear, slow to speak= take your time when talking, slow to wrath= don't lose your temper.

Verse 20

²⁰For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Here's a comparison verse.

You have man and wrath/anger against God and Righteousness.

The meaning of this passage is, that wrath in the mind of man will not have any tendency to make him righteous.

Verse 21

²¹Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Lay Apart means: Get rid of, avoid, putting away.

We're to get rid of:

Filthiness is: The word here rendered *filthiness*, occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It means properly *filth*; and then is applied to evil conduct considered as *disgusting* or *offensive*.

Superfluity of Naughtiness: Means: "abounding of evil."

Now the word "Naughty" has lost its meaning today.

We'll say: "She's a naughty little girl.", because she yelled or screamed at her parents.

But being "Naughty" in The Bible means that you're wicked.

End of Verse 21

"and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

The Engraved word, The Holy Bible is active just like The Holy Spirit is.

The Engrafting word is The Word of God which you've received, which then becomes a part of you.

How many have heard of Grafting Plants?

Grafting and budding are horticultural techniques used to join parts from two or more plants so that they appear to grow as a single plant. In grafting, the upper part (scion) of one plant grows on the root system (rootstock) of another plant. In the budding process, a bud is taken from one plant and grown on another.

Although budding is considered a modern art and science, grafting is not new. The practice of grafting can be traced back 4,000 years to ancient China and Mesopotamia.

And let the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Amen and Amen!

James 10/02/11

Last week we ended at verse 21, and by review let's look at verse 21:

Verse 21

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And let the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

So we're to lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

And then what else are we to do?

Verse 22

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

How many people have a life verse?

Some people it's:

Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

For some people it's: **Proverbs 3:5-6**

⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

James 1:22 is my life verse.

It's on my website: www.afriendtothepolice.com

It's on my Business Card,

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

“Doers of the word”: not just reading it, not just listening to it,

Oh we can read The Bible, it's a good Book, we can listen to a Sermon and say: “I liked it, it's good for so-and-so...”

But Believing it! Living it, Sharing it! Telling others!

When the world says it's ok to do this way, and

The Holy Bible says to do it God's way, we as Christians do it God's way!

Be a doer, Be a worker for Jesus!

Here's some simple Bible Tips on being a Doer and a Worker:

1. Don't be a Lone Ranger Christian, Share the Work.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 says:

¹²And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Jesus sends out His Disciples in Luke 9:1 says:

¹Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

²And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Mark adds in Mark 6:7

⁷And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Two by Two Amen!

2. Don't Worry, The Lord will be with you-all.

Matthew 18:20 says:

²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Deuteronomy 31:6

⁶Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

3. Understand rank and structure, somebody gotta be the Boss...

4. Take a break. The seventh day is The LORD'S Day and a Day of rest.

Mark 6:30-31 says:

³⁰And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

³¹And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, **and rest a while**: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

5. Teach and train others.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

6. And finally, Don't be a **Workaholic!** I struggle with this!

Are You a Workaholic?

Here's 10 Signs of a Workaholic!

1. Do you have a specific time when your work life stops and your private life begins each day? Each weekend? For vacations?
2. When you leave work in the evening, do problems, projects, calls, appointments and meetings follow you home and erode your private time?
3. Do you have withdrawal symptoms when not working, such as restlessness, anxiety, depression or psychosomatic symptoms?
4. Has anyone close to you ever accused you of being a workaholic?

5. Can you not seem to stop replaying conversations at work, reassessing decisions and reexamining work details?
6. Is your identity as a person so closely linked to your work identity that it is difficult to enjoy an activity not connected with work?
7. Do you take setbacks, feedback or criticism of work projects personally?
8. Are you still trying to prove your worth to yourself, or someone else, by what you do?
9. Are you doing what you do for someone else's response, or for your own benefit and satisfaction of your own ideals?
10. Is work an escape?

Curing the Addiction

If you answered yes to most of those questions, you may be a candidate for workaholics anonymous.

Establish a Boundary

Establish a clear boundary between your work life and your private life. If you feel guilty or uncomfortable with taking time off, look at it this way: in order to be maximally effective when you are at work, making time for a private life is crucial. So relaxation is work in itself!

Have a Transition Period

Even though you may enjoy and feel rewarded by your work, play is equally important. Creativity needs time to ferment, develop and expand. You may even find it useful to set aside a brief time at the end of each day to allow closure of work activity. Think of it like putting a

period at the end of the sentence of each day so that time off is really time off.

Work on Your Personal Life

If you're this effective at your job, just imagine what you can do in your personal life! Establish a life plan for yourself. Write down your thoughts, plans and timetables in order to clarify things and provide a basis for development.

Don't Take it Personally

Distinguish the feedback, criticism and setbacks on work projects, as relating to the work itself – the task you've performed. Try not to hear them as a personal invalidation.

Think a Little More

There is a difference between thinking and acting. Physical action is not the only form of doing something; thinking and contemplating are active forms of doing something too.

This distinction may seem obvious, but it is not clear in the minds of many people. For example, a patient may go to the doctor and want to know what to "do" about her depression. There is no immediate thing to do; the doctor must begin by understanding the emotional issues that underlie the symptom. So the doctor's job *is* to think!

Don't Talk About Work So Much

Reassess the amount of time you spend talking about your work with family and friends. Obviously work will be one topic of conversation, but being caught up in war stories may represent an inability to establish boundaries.

Work hard, play hard

The fact is, there are two ends of the spectrum. Some people live to work and some people work to live. Ideally, we should all be somewhere in the middle. Now take a good hard look at yourself – and get to work.

And being a Worker and a Doer isn't just a Man-thing!

Romans 16:1-2

¹I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

²That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

We needs the Women. Amen!

That work “Succourer” in verse 2 is the Feminine for someone who gives help. A helper

Phebe was a helper, a servant of the Church, a worker, a doer!

We're looking at being a doer and a worker for The Lord,

Well what should we be exactly doing?

Here's your Pastors and Teachers Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Well why?

¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

You Have other Church workers Like Phebe,

You have Stephen the Deacon

A Man That Was Full of Faith and Led By The Holy Spirit that Stephen was chosen to help the early church apostles in regards to the distribution of food and by waiting on tables.

This was a very important job for the deacons, for it allowed the apostles more time to preach the Gospel of Christ instead of waiting on the physical needs of the people.

The Scriptures would confirm that Stephen was a man who was full of God's grace and power.

Stephen was also a very powerful messenger for the Lord, for the Scriptures tells us that God had did great wonders and performed miraculous signs through him.

- Teaching the children (they too are a part of the Body of Christ)
- Watching the children, so that their parents can pay attention to the message.
- Preparing food for a time of Christian fellowship.
- Building and maintaining the church building, so that the Body of Christ has someplace to gather together and be edified.
- Individual discipleship, which edifies the one being discipled.
- Testifying, so that the faith of another might be built up.
- Music Ministry, Playing Music, Singing Songs for The Lord!
- Being a Prayer Warrior!
- Some people have a Ministry of Financial Giving!

2 Corinthians 9:6

⁶But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

S. Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-A, Chick-fil-A runs 1,530 restaurants in 39 states, but it still feels like a hometown restaurant to fans in Georgia, which has 189 outlets. Sales figures for 2010 will most likely be over \$3.5 billion, a spokesman said.

S. Truett Cathy, is an 89-year-old, Harley-riding Southern Baptist who opened a small diner near the Atlanta airport 1946.

He closed the business on Sundays because he was a churchgoer who wanted a day to rest and be with his family.

Because the company remains privately held — his two sons run it — it can easily keep its faith-based principles intact. The company's corporate purpose is, in part, "to glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us."

S. Truett Cathy have given millions of dollars to a variety of causes and programs, including scholarships that require a pledge to follow Christian values, a string of Christian-based foster homes and groups working to defeat same-sex marriage initiatives.

How many people have heard of **Meadowlark Lemon** ?

Shortly before high school graduation, the Globetrotters contacted the promising athlete from Wilmington, North Carolina. Uncle Sam first insisted on two years in the armed forces. Meadowlark kept in touch with the Globetrotters and formally joined the team as soon as he was a civilian again.

He traveled by car, bus, train or plane every night, including tours through the racially torn South of the late 1950's and early 1960's.

Meadowlark's family life was limited at times, since he averaged more than 325 games a year, but the King of the Court kept smiling. Meadowlark traveled more than 4 million miles and played in 9,925 consecutive games and 9,984 lifetime basketball games. His love of the game transcended all barriers and brought smiles to generations of fans in over 100 countries from Algeria to Zimbabwe. He counts Popes, Kings, Queens and Presidents among his audiences.

Whether it is making people laugh or offering inspiration, **giving has always been a part of Meadowlark's life.** In 1986 he became an ordained minister and in 1998, received his Doctorate of Divinity from Vision International University.

The Meadowlark Lemon Show is broadcast nationally and internationally each week on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Reaching a potential audience of over 30 million people, Meadowlark talks to successful athletes and entertainers who attribute their success in life to Jesus Christ.

Meadowlark Lemon is 80 years old! And Financially Supports:

Inner City Youth Outreach – Gang Ministry

Youth Prison Work, Youth Drug Awareness, Native Americans Ministry!

Not all Rich men are going to Hell!

Going back to:

Verse 22

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

“ **deceiving your own selves.**”

That simply means: if you're just hearing the word of God and doing nothing about what God wants you to do

You're deceiving yourself, you're lying to yourself...

Be a doer, not a Pew Potato!

Amen! Let's Pray...

James 10/16/11

Last week we looked at James 1:22

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

“Doers of the word”: not just reading it, not just listening to it, but DOOOING IT, Amen!

Here’s some simple Bible Tips on being a Doer and a Worker:

1. Don’t be a Lone Ranger Christian, Share the Work.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 says:

¹²And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Jesus sends out His Disciples in

Mark 6:7

⁷And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Two by Two Amen!

2. Don’t Worry, The Lord will be with you-all.

Deuteronomy 31:6

⁶Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

3. Understand rank and structure, somebody gotta be the Boss...

4. Take a break. The seventh day is The LORD'S Day and a Day of rest.

Mark 6:30-31 says:

³⁰And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

³¹And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, **and rest a while**: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

5. Teach and train others.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

6. And finally, Don't be a **Workaholic!** I struggle with this!

And James says in verse 22 that we're to be workers.

Verse

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

If we're not be doers of the word, we're deceiving ourselves, we're lying to ourselves...

It's one of the great failures of modern Christianity...

It's that they know the Word, they Believe in the Word, but they don't do the Word...

Verse 23

²³For 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:

The Word of God The Holy Bible is likened to a glass or a mirror,

And when you read this Book, and when you look at this Book,

You see a reflection of yourself from that Book, it reflects back to you, just like it says here in verse 23:

“he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:”

Paul writing in: **2 Corinthians 3:18**

¹⁸But 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.

And the more time you spend with that Book the more:

1. You'll see yourself as you really are, so there's no allusions about yourself, no trick mirrors.

2. And those words get off the page and get's into you, and changes you, and transforms you, and conforms you to His Son Jesus Christ!

- The Bible is the living Word of God,

- And it get's grafted into you (verse 21)

- And when you read it, it's like a mirror and it reflects back to and changes you!

Verse 24

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

You notice where's he's going, he's going his way

He's not a doer, he's not putting into practice what he saw, what he read.

And as the song goes:

“And now, the end is near,
And so I face the final curtain.
My friend, I'll say it clear,
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain.
I've lived a life that's full.
I've traveled each and every highway;
And more, much more than this,
I did it my way.”

— [Frank Sinatra](#) On a side note:

Frank Sinatra's song, Chicago, Sinatra mocks God by slandering Billy Sunday. Sinatra sings ... "*In Chicago, Chicago The town that Billy Sunday could not shut down.*"

Verse 25

²⁵But 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.

There's a new New Testament phrase here: “perfect law of liberty”

Paul writes in: Galatians 5:1

¹Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

So what's going on here verses 22-25

1. Is that a person sees and reads from The Bible,
2. And seeing what kind of person they are,
3. And putting the Book down, and forgetting it, and ignoring it, and not putting into practice, not believing it, not being a doer,
4. They go their way!

5. And they remain a natural man instead of a Godly man all their life,

But if a man is a doer of the Word, and put's it into practice,

- They Lord blesses him in his deeds,
- The Lord will honor his work.
- You grow in grace,
- And you come under The Law of Liberty (N.T)

Instead of The Law of Works or Commands!

Verse 26

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

“Religious” That’s the outward works someone that people, the world sees. We’ve all heard “He’s Religious” because he’s doing something good.

“and bridleth not his tongue,” and in a little later in chapter 3, James spends the whole chapter all 18 verses on that subject the tongue.

There's three different Tongues mentioned in The Bible:

1. The first Tongue is the language of the land.

Genesis 10:5

⁵By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

Ezra 4:7

⁷And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue.

2. The second Tongue is the speaking in Tongues in The Book of Acts and 1 Corinthians, in which God gives the speaker the instant ability to speak in a known foreign language, which the speaker has never spoken in before. It's like me being able to instantly speak Chinese when being able to Preach The Gospel to a group of Chinese.

3. The third Tongue is the physical member which is inside your mouth, and that's what James is speaking about here.

“and bridleth not his tongue,” And that bridle is like in:

James 3:2-3

²For 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.

³Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

The Bit is what you put in the horse's mouth,

And the bridle is what goes around the horse's head and neck, which controls his whole body,

So the idea is that your Tongue is like a wild horse, a bucking bronco, And the way to tame your Tongue is by putting that,

Bit in your mouth, and that bridle around your neck and head, and thus controlling that Tongue and the rest of your body!

Verse 26

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

This is a warning about talking too fast,

And it's a warning about talking too much.

It's nice to witness to someone and we're supposed to do it, but some Christians all they do is talk, talk, talk...

They quote a hundred Bible verses in 10 minutes and to a lost person it's confusing...

That's why James said in:

James 1:19

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

We're to be slow to speak, Why?

So we don't start running our Mouth, that's why!

Verse 26

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

It could seem that if you talk too much you can become braggadocious.

Let someone else brag about you,

Verse 27

²⁷Pure 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.

Now here's the definition of Religion: Religion is the outward works and according to God here in verse 27 it's:

1. "To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,"

That's helping people, who need help the most! And:

2. "to keep himself unspotted from the world."

That's Separation from the world, and separation from the world system.

And it's funny to think that the people who say they're "Religious" aren't really Religious at all...

Religion and Salvation are different:

- Now Religion is man's way to justify himself outwardly.

Salvation is Inwardly, Salvation is what God does for a man that a man can't do for himself.

- Religion is what a man thinks he has to do to work his way to Heaven.

Salvation is what God gives the sinner who knows he can't work his way to Heaven.

Hey you can get “Religion” and go straight to Hell!

When you get Salvation you get Heaven and eternal life!

That’s the end of chapter one!

And just one quick observation here:

James uses a lot of Nature Picture words and phrases here in chapter one.

You’ve got:

- The wavering man compared to the wave of the seas and the wind tossed in verse 6,
- The Rich compared to the “the flower of the grass” in verse 10,
- Again the Rich are mentioned in verse ¹¹For 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.
- In verse 15 sin is compared to conception and birth.
- In verse 21 you have word engraphed which are horticultural techniques.
- In verse 21 you have the bridled tongue.

We’ll see if James continues to use these Picture words!

Let’s Pray...

James 10/23/11

James 2

Verse 1

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

The idea there is that don't exercise the kind of Faith in Jesus Christ and show respect for person, there's a conflict there...

You have "The Lord of Glory"

What does Glory mean? Glory means:

The glorious moral attributes, the infinite perfections of God, Splendour, brightness, majesty of God.

Jesus is the "brightness of the Father's glory"

Hebrews 1

¹God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

²Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

³**Who being the brightness of his glory**, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

Verse 2

²For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

Here you see a comparison verse here, in Bible times if you owned a gold ring and goodly apparel you were considered a rich man, and the poor man comes in vile raiment or dirty clothing.

Verse 3

³And 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:

The gay clothing here means: Fine or showy, it's not what we think it means,

Look at verse 3 again the comparison between the rich and the poor. The rich sit in the good place,

And the poor have to stand or sit under my footstool which in Bible times is the lowest and least favored place to sit.

And what's going on here in chapter 2 is that the way of the world is to cater to the rich and to discriminate against the poor.

But that should not be the way of the Christian.

Everyone should be treated with equal: love & respect regardless of economic status, social status or race.

And James questions our motives.

Are you trying to make a buck in it, are you trying to get in good with rich because of their money,

1 Timothy 6:10

¹⁰For 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.

And Churches and Pastors are guilty of kissing up to the rich because of their money,

And you me, I don't talk too much about money, I don't look at the giving records, I let The Holy Ghost deal with your heart...

It's not how much money you got, but how's your Christian Heart?

It's ok to have rich person for a friend, just don't forget about having some poor friends as well...

Here's a few Bible verses against discriminating:

Galatians 3:28

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Acts 10:34-35

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

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

Colossians 3:11

¹¹Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Matthew 5:45

⁴⁵That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Verses 4& 5

⁴Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

⁵Hearken, 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?

John writes about two Churches in The Book of Revelation,

You got the Rich Church in Laodicea:

Revelation 3:14-17

¹⁴And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹⁵I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

¹⁷Because 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:

And you have the poor Church in Smyrna,

Revelation 2:8-10

⁸And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

⁹I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰Fear 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.

Look at the end of verse 5: “heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?”

The promise of God comes if you love Him, you can't buy Him, but you can love,

The Beatles were right when they said: “Money can't buy me love!”

Verse 6

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

Barnes Notes has a good comment on this verse:

"Do ye despise the poor?" Perhaps it might be understood somewhat ironically: "You despise the poor, do you, and are disposed to honour the rich! Look then, and see how the rich treat you, and see whether you have so much occasion to regard them with any peculiar respect."

Verse 7

⁷Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

Jesus is the worthy name, in Philippians 2:9-11 Paul writes:

⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 5:13

¹³And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

The world just loves to Blaspheme the name of Jesus,

Hollywood loves to Blaspheme the name of Jesus,

Did you know that there was a time when the entertainment industry was bound by a code that forbade them from using any blasphemy in a movie?

The "Hays Code" stated:

Pointed profanity--this includes the words "God," "Lord," "Jesus," "Christ" (unless used reverently), "Hell," "S.O.B.," "damn," or every other profane or vulgar expression, however used--is forbidden.

Hollywood is no longer restricted by the code. Many of today's movies don't simply blaspheme the name of Jesus. They go one further. For example, the award-winning *Blow*, directed by Ted Demme, is a typical R-rated film. The name of Jesus Christ is blasphemed eleven times in the movie. Three of those times, for some reason, the "F" word is used in the middle of His name.

Verse 7

⁷Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

Cross Reference that with:

Deuteronomy 5:11

¹¹Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Don't curse, don't take the name of The LORD in vain...

Verse 8

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

James must have his half brother say this numerous times in:

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

³⁸This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Verse 9 Here's a "but" verse

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

One of the hardest things to do is to be giving extra attention to a rich person because he has money, and

To keep yourself to looking Superior in front of rich people,

This is a big part of this chapter, and what you have to keep in mind is that you're dealing with rich or poor people, but that you're dealing with souls, Amen!

You don't see rich or poor or white or black, you see a soul...

Verse 10

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

This is a great verse to use for someone who thinks they're perfect or righteous, or who thinks they're not a sinner.

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

All it takes is the breaking of one law to make you a law breaker...

Romans 3:23

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

Verses 11

¹¹For 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.

And what James is saying here is that you may not be judged by The Ten Commandments, but

Verse 12

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

That you'll be judged by the law of liberty, it's a N.T. thing,

You're not under the Law, you're under Grace,

And you'll be judged what you did in that freedom, that grace, that law of liberty.

Liberty is freedom to do right,

Not a license to do wrong...

Liberty, Grace and Freedom is a good thing which God gives us in this dispensation, Amen!

James 11/06/11

Verse 12

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

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Liberty, Grace and Freedom is a good thing which God gives us in this dispensation, Amen!

Verse 13

¹³For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

The idea here is that the man that shows no mercy, is gonna get Judgment without mercy,

Notice the "he" in v.13, the "he" is not God, it's man.

Continuing in v.13 "and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

It's that The Lord would rather give Mercy instead of Judgment,

Matthew 9:13 says:

¹³But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

The Lord wants Mercy instead of Judgment,

Mercy Rejoices!

Psalm 145:8

⁸The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Ephesians 2:4

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

- **MERCY IS MANIFESTED**

- In the sending of Christ.

Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

- In salvation.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

- In long-suffering.

Lamentations 3:22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

God is a God of Mercy, Amen!

Now verses 14-26 is a tough passage,

Every self righteous mans runs to James chap 2:14-26, Why?

Because it teaches here that works are a part of Justification, which is contrary to the Pauline Epistles...

Verse 14

¹⁴What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

Notice it says: “though a man say he hath faith”,

It doesn't say he has faith, it doesn't says he's saved,

It just says what does it profit if a man says he has Faith.

The man says here that he has the Faith,

Reading verse 14: “though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?”

Well, if a man just says it, but doesn't really have Faith, then the answer is NO!

Can Faith save someone? YES

Faith can save anyone!

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 3:21-24

²¹But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²²Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them **that believe**: for there is no difference:

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

²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

The object of **Saving Faith** is simply what it is that the Christian believes in order to be saved.

Here are a number of verses speaking of this:

Romans 10:9

⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

John 3:16

¹⁶For 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 3:36

³⁶He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:24

²⁴Verily, 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.

John 6:40

⁴⁰And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 John 5:13

¹³These 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.

Going back to James,

Here's an Illustration:

Verses 15 & 16

¹⁵If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

¹⁶And 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?

Cross Reference that with:

Matthew 25:35-36

³⁵For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

³⁶Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

What James is saying here is that it's not Faith-slash-and-something-works that saves a man,

It's that if a man has **Saving Faith Ding, Ding Ding!**

It'll produce an Outworking, if you got it people ought to able to **see it!**

THE OUTWORKINGS OF SAVING FAITH

As James mentions that faith without works is dead, what kind of outworkings of one's faith would you expect from a Christian?

- He has a contrite heart - he calls sin for what it is and repents. (1John 1:9)
- He loves other Christians. (1John 2:10; 3:14; 4:12; Matt 25:31-46)
- He makes decisions in life according to God's will (1John 2:17)
- Though still a sinner (1John 1:8,10) he does not accept sin as part of his lifestyle. (1John 3:3,6,9; 5:18)
- And in doing so finds he can overcome sin. (1John 5:4; Rom 6:11; Gal 5:24)
- He has a hopeful anticipation of being with Christ. (Phil 1:21; Rom 8:23,24; 1Cor 5:19)
- He develops Christlike characteristics in an ongoing process of sanctification as he cooperates with the Spirit of God. Typical characteristics are listed in:

2 Peter 1:5-8

⁵And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

⁶And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

⁸For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23

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

²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Jesus Christ Himself said in:

Luke 6:46

⁴⁶And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Verse 17

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

So you see here there's a wrong kind of Faith and a right kind of Faith.

Verse 18

¹⁸Yea, a man may say, (here we go again with a hypothetical like in verse 14) Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

And the Hypothetical man says here: "Hey Christian", you have Faith,

I have works and I'll show you my works to prove my Faith,

He's turned this Salvation thing around on you, and you Christian can look bad, if he's working more than you!

Here's something to think about:

A Man accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour just like the Saving Faith Bible verses I read earlier...

And He smoke cigarettes, he gets a divorce, he can't hold a steady job, he doesn't pay his bills on time, and then you got

A man who takes care of his family, got a good job, pays his bills on time, hey, he evens goes to Church, has good works, but has never in his heart has never accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour,

Who's got the Faith to go to Heaven?

Whoaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!!!!!!!

Verse 19

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

It's good that you believe, but you know what: so do the devils, they believe and they tremble...

The demons are not atheists; they believe there is a God, and tremble at the thought of Him. They know all about Him and His power.

These demons believed and yet remained demons. Some humans profess to believe, yet act much like demons.

Some men say they believe, but have never trembled before the Lord at the thought of the seriousness of sin.

The Devils said to Jesus in:

Mark 1:24

²⁴Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

And in Matthew 8:29

²⁹And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Men don't believe and tremble, they scoff and mock God.

We read in:

2 Peter 3:3

³Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

Today, it's all about me and my lust, not about God...

Verse 20

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

Faith alone Justifies, and as a result, Saving Faith brings something outward,

It brings a New Birth, That's why when you get Saved you become Borned Again!

Let's Pray...

James 11/27/11

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

Let's turn to Genesis 22

Genesis 22:1-3

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

²And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

³And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:9-18

⁹And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

¹⁰And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

¹¹And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

¹²And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

¹⁴And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

¹⁶And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

¹⁷That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

¹⁸And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

In the context, let's look at James now

Verse 21:

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

This is where Abraham was justified by his works by God.

Verse 22

²²Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

²³And 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.

Let's turn to Genesis 15:1-6

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

²And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

³And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

⁴And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

⁵And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

⁶And he believed in the LORD; **and he counted it to him for righteousness.**

In verse 6 here in Genesis chapter 6 is when he was counted righteous, which answers verse 23:

²³And 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.

Imputation means: the righteousness of God is imputed, or to attribute or ascribe or charge to them that believe in him.

So Abraham was counted righteous by God in Gen 15, That's where he got Saved, right there...

You have Abraham's Justification in Gen. 22, which in time is about 40 years.

Remember this is OT, this is not the NT,

To break it down simple:

Abraham was Justified by Works and Faith, and his works made his Faith (Verse 22) Perfect.

Now **Verse 24** hopefully is gonna make some sense:

²⁴Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Here's another OT example, Rahab a Gentile harlot:

Verse 25

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

Verse 26

²⁶For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

What James is talking about here and also a big chunk of Chapter 2 is that:

1. The outward manifestation of Faith, **Verse 26** "so faith without works is dead also." That manifestation of Faith is before the world, it's before man.
2. A Christian does not work to get saved.
3. A Christian doesn't work to stay saved,
4. He works because he is saved!

5. Faith alone Justifies and you get that “Saving Faith” which produces works!

NT:

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

That’s why James earlier says in:

James 1:22

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

Us Christians are to be doers, workers!

That’s why Jesus said in:

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Tough Passage!

I hope you understand it...

We'll start Chap 3 next week, and just like James spends the entire 2 on Faith and Works, chapter 3 is all about the Tongue.

I just want to take a look again at Verse 23:

²³And 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.**

Abraham was called the Friend of God, was there anyone else called the Friend of God?

Moses was,

Exodus 33:11

¹¹And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Jesus speaking to His Disciples in:

John 15:13-15

¹³Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

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

¹⁵Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

To be God's friend, then we must obey His Word.

And ,Who's our Best Friend?

What was this morning's message?

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Best Friend you'll ever have!

Remember why? Because:

1. Jesus is a Loving Friend.

Ephesians 5:2 says:

²And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

2. Because Jesus is a Lasting Friend!

Matthew 28:20

²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**
Amen.

3. He a Lifting Friend!

Psalm 30:1 says:

¹I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.

And finally,

4. He's a listening Friend.

Psalm 120:1

¹In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.

Psalm 6:9 says:

⁹The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.

God's a listener, Amen!

And it starts with accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour!

Let's Pray...

James 01/08/12

James 3

Verse 1

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

In the Professions there's three Degrees:

1. You Have an Apprentice, 2. Journeymen, 3. Master.

When you need a Plumber you hire a Master Plumber.

Before someone joins the Carpenters Union they go through an Apprenticeship Program.

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

The idea here is that you don't have to be a Master at everything, Why?

“knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

The more things you're a Master at, the more things you're Accountable to, and open yourself up to the greater condemnation.

Luke 12:48

⁴⁸But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

With Mastery comes Responsibility,

And with Responsibility comes Judgment,

And with Judgment comes Condemnation!

Verse 2

²For 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.

The more things you do and the more things you say,

The more you can offend, we offend all, James says,

There's a number of ways to offend people, and what James is saying:

If a man can control his Tongue and doesn't offend in word, that man is a perfect or complete man, and is able to Bridle the whole body!

If you can Master the Tongue, you'll be able to Master the Body!

Verse 3 Here's an Illustration:

³Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

Have you ever stopped to think about how big a Horse is and how small a Bit is? And how that Bit controls the Horses body?

Verse 4 Here's another Illustration:

⁴Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Now the Helm is where the Helmsman stands on the Ship, and runs or directs the Ship.

The Helm is connected to the Rudder which steers the Ship.

In Bible times it was all done by hand, the Great big Ship was run by a small Helm and Rudder.

And what James is saying in these first four verses is that when you try to Master over something, the first thing you ought to Master is your Tongue, why? So you'll be Condemned less.

You've got some Picture Illustrations here in these verses as well.

You've got Bridles & Bits and Horses, you've got Helms & Governors and Ships.

Verse 5 Our third Illustration.

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

The Match or a little fire.

One little Match can burn down a Million Acres of Land,

A little fire can burn down a House or a City.

Remember The Great Chicago Fire?

This fire occurred on the evening of October 8, 1871. The summer of 1871 was unusually dry in Chicago. With all its wooden buildings, Chicago was kindling waiting to burn. Incidentally, the city of Chicago had finished building all of the downtown's sidewalks out of wood right before the fire.

This fire killed 300 people and destroyed more than 17,000 structures - over 2000 acres in 27 hours. The origin of the fire is uncertain, though popular legend attributes its origin to a woman named Mrs. O'Leary. Mrs. O'Leary was milking her cow at the start of the fire.

And a farm animal kicked over her lamp, setting the barn on fire and starting the spread of one of the biggest fires in history. The fire

destroyed the entire downtown core of Chicago and most of its North side.

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

What's a Human example of this? Hitler...

Hitler never took a Gun and shot and killed anyone,

All he ever did was talk, talk, talk...

“the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!”

Talk, talk, talk and that little Tongue/Fire killed over 100 million people Worldwide...

Verse 6

⁶And the tongue is (Definition) 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.

“that it defileth the whole body” Jesus said in:

Matthew 15:11

¹¹Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

That Tongue comes out of the mouth and defiles the whole body.

What's a Human Illustration: Marriage.

If you're not ready to say “I do” then Don't, Why? That Tongue will lie and yours and your Spouses bodies will be defiled.

Continuing in verse 6:

“and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”

Old Mother Nature doesn't run its own course, “fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”

Verse 7

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

We use Animals for work and Scientific Experiments, we have Zoos, Why?

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

We/Us Humans can tame the Animals, But look at:

Verse 8

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

It's any man's tongue, saved or lost...

Us Christians ought to watch that Tongue,

We know that we're not to curse or swear,

You ever hear a Christian say: “Well good Heavens” or “For Heaven's Sake” or “Well, for Heaven's Sake”...

Jesus said in: **Matthew 5:34**

³⁴But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

James 5:12

¹²But 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.

Verses 9 & 10

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

¹⁰Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Verse 10: Blessings and Cursings,

We have to be careful of this when we go to Church,

We'll Bless God in Church; we'll Bless His people in Church,

And after Church when we get in the car, we'll Curse God;

Oh-Boy God, you didn't answer my Prayer,

And we'll Curse His People;

So and So didn't shake my hand, I'm not gonna talk to him anymore...

Oh, The Preacher went 39 minutes today...

Blessings and Cursings from the same mouth,

The Indians would say: "You speak with a Fork Tongue!"

The Tongue is a little member and it makes Fire!!

At The Judgment Seat of Christ,

You'll be Justified by your by the words you spoke,

Or you'll be Condemned by the words you spoke...

Verse 11&12, Here's another Picture Illustration.

¹¹Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?
-No

¹²Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? (No) either a vine, figs? (No) so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

The Picture Illustration here is:

If Nature doesn't put out two different things at the same time,

Then neither should the Tongue, Oh Christian!

The Christian should be Blessing with his Tongue, not Cursing!

We have a Question and Answer here in:

Verse 13

¹³Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you?

Answer: let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Answer it's the Man with good conversation – good speech,

And his works with meekness of wisdom.

Meekness means: Softness of temper; mildness; gentleness, in an evangelical sense, humility; resignation; submission to the divine will, without murmuring or peevishness; opposed to pride & arrogance.

Verses 14 – 17

You have two kinds of Wisdom:

¹⁴But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

¹⁵This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

The First kind of Wisdom is Earthly, Sensual & Devilish.

You can get Wisdom from The Devil!

This kind of Wisdom results in envying and strife.

Envying means: Feeling uneasiness at the superior condition and happiness of another, and to hate him on that account.

Strife means: Contention in anger or enmity; contest; struggle for victory; quarrel or war.

And the result:

Verse 16

¹⁶For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Remember 1 Corinthians 14:33

³³For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

The Devil is the author of confusion!

The second kind of Wisdom is Heavenly Wisdom

Verse 17

¹⁷But 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.

There's a comparison between The Devil and God.

In verse 16 & 16 you read: earthly, sensual, devilish, envying, strife confusion and every evil work. That's the Devil.

In verse 17 here's Gods: You've got pure, peaceable, gentle, easy, full of mercy, good fruits & without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And Wisdom.

To be Wise means: Properly, having knowledge; having the power of discerning and judging correctly, or of discriminating between what is true and what is false.

Remember our text from this morning?

Matthew 7:24

²⁴Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Here's the result of God's wisdom:

Verse 18

¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

God's Wisdom produces fruit, while the Devil's Wisdom produces confusion.

James chapter three, some Good practical Godly advise from James!

Let's Pray...

James 01/15/12

James 4

Verse 1

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

Carl Marx said that wars come about because of Capitalism,

But The Bible says wars come from your lusts that war in your members. That war is your members: your eyes, your ears, your heart.

War comes from inside man. Man is war like.

And those members want, they covet, they lust, they war after things they don't have.

What's something that causes you want and lust after something?

The TV, those commercials... a lot of Car commercials, a lot of Jewelry commercials...

Who's selling those products? Sexy Girls, Male Models,

And you watch 3-4 hours of TV a day, what happens?

You start lusting after those things, I want this, I want that, gimme, gimme want want, I'd kill for that...

Verse 2

²Ye 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.

You lust, you kill, you desire, you fight and war over it, why because you can't obtain it! You don't have it, you want it, you want it so badly that you'd kill for it.

For 15-year old Michael Eugene Thomas, it definitely was the Sneakers. A ninth grader at Meade Senior High School in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Thomas was found strangled to death. Charged with first degree murder was James David Martin, 17, a basketball buddy who took Thomas's two week old Air Jordan basketball shoes and left Thomas's barefoot body in the woods near school.

LOS ANGELES, CA -- Sheriff's officials have identified a man suspected of killing another man over a parking spot near a Chuck E. Cheese in South Los Angeles. Robert Herrera, 27, is suspected of fatally shooting 29-year-old Daniel Villanueva He has been charged with murder in the attack.

U.S. Marine shot in Deerfield Beach, FL over gold necklace. U.S. Marine Karl Trenker escaped two wars unscathed but was shot three times in the chest and abdomen when he met two potential buyers interested in his fiancée's gold necklace advertised on Craigslist.

We've all heard of these stories.

Instead of lusting and waring and killing for something what does The Bible say we're to do if we want something?

²Ye 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.**

God's a giving God Amen!

And us Humans don't like to ask, we like to take, we're takers, we're selfish, we're me first survivors,

And when we finally breakdown and ask God for something and we don't get it, The Bible says we're to look at our Heart,

Verse 3

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

That word Amiss means: Wrong; faulty; out of order; improper; In a faulty manner; contrary to propriety, truth, law or morality.

Uh, God can I have 10 Million dollars, An Cadillac Escalade, A house on the Ocean and can you kill my next door neighbor for me...

That's asking amiss...

What's the opposite of Amiss?

Good, honest, right, worthy, virtuous

When we Pray, when we ask God for something, it's right to confess your sins to Him,

And it's good to ask God for things, but ask God for Good, honest, right, worthy, virtuous things!

2 Samuel 12:7-8

⁷And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

⁸And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, **I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.**

God says such and such; that's just about anything...

⁹Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and

hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, **and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.**

God was mad at David because he didn't God for a wife; David lusted, wanted, killed and took that woman for a wife without asking.

Verse 4

⁴Ye 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.

The idea here is that the person who is on friendly terms with the World, and has stepped out from or stepped away The Lord, is now an enemy of God.

John says in: 1 John 2:15

¹⁵Love 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.

Paul says in: Romans 12:2

²And 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.

Again Paul in: Galatians 1:10

¹⁰For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

Our friend here writes in: James 1:27

²⁷Pure 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.

Jesus said in:Matthew 6:24

²⁴No 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.

Going back to James 4:4

⁴Ye 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.

This applies to everybody, you have:

Adulterers=male & Adulteresses=female...

And when a Christian, a backslidden Christian, a wayward Christian, a worldly Christian chooses the World over God,

The calls them “adulterers and adulteresses”

There’s physical Adultery: a man cheats on his wife,

You’ve got spiritual Adultery: a man cheats on his God with the world.

This verse says that if you get along with the world, your God’s enemy,

So the question is if you’re a friend to God, then what are you to this world? Ans. - There enemy!

Jesus Christ said in:

John 16:1-2

¹These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

²They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

He also said in:

John 15:18

¹⁸If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

This doesn't mean that you as a Christian, shouldn't go out there and cause trouble and make enemies,

Remember what Jesus said in:Matthew 5:44

⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

In its simplest form: You're in the world, but you shouldn't be enjoying fellowship with the world.

That's why Abraham was called a friend of God.

Two College Roommates Illustration:

Verse 5

⁵Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

The illustration given in verse 5 is envy, jealousy, the rage of man,

Genesis 6:5

⁵And 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.

The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

The two different explanations to this verse.

Verse 6

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

The Lord will give you grace to be true to Him, and God will give you more grace, plenty of grace, enough grace to overcome the world.

Continuing in verse 6: “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” Cross reference that with:

Proverbs 3:34

³⁴Surely he scorneth the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

Verse 7

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

Submit means: To yield, resign or surrender to the power, will or authority of another.

There’s Six areas in The Bible that a Christian should be in Submission to.

1. To God; right here in James 4:7
2. There’s Submission in Marriage. Eph chap 5.

3. There's Submission to the Government.

1 Peter 2:13-14

¹³Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

¹⁴Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

4. Submission to Church Elders.

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

5. We're to Submit to each other.

Ephesians 5:21

²¹Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

6. Younger People are to Submit to Older People.

1 Peter 5:5

⁵Likewise, 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.

Going Back to **Verse 7**

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

We're to Submit to God and we're to Resist The Devil.

Resist, Resistance,

That's a Military word, it's aggressive,

To Resist means you stand up and fight, you gotta fight The devil, and if you don't Resist and you don't fight and become Passive,

The Devil won't leave you, he'll get you, and he'll put the hurt on you,

Peter tells us in: 1 Peter 5:8

⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

We've got to fight. We've got to resist, we've got to be sober and vigilant, why? Because The Devil will devour you!

I'll close with this: And remember we're fighting, but our strength comes from The Lord!

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Let's Pray...

James 01/29/12

James 4

Verse 8

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

The spiritual NT application means, by drawing nigh or near to God; that's in the spirit, in the heart, This doesn't mean you physically get up and walk towards God, He's gonna walk towards you,

Why? As a NT Christian we're close to God.

- The Holy Spirit of God lives inside of you, the day you got saved.

That's pretty close.

We're near to God because of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:13 says:

¹³But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

That's very close.

Hebrews 10:19

¹⁹Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

That's Boldly close!

When we're a Borned-Again Christian, a Child of God, you can't get any closer than that.

What James is doing here is challenging his readers to pursue **fellowship** with the Lord.

However, there are two qualifications in this verse:

1. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and 2. purify your hearts,

David, who had struggles, says in:

Psalm 73:28

²⁸But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Paul writing in:

Hebrews 7:19

¹⁹For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

And what's the result?

When we draw near to God, God will draw near to us. God stands ready to accept us with open arms.

Psalm 145:18

¹⁸The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Remember: Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, Why? Remember what Jesus said in:

Matthew 15:8

⁸This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Going back to James,

“Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” He’s Preaching now,

Remember in James chapter 1 Verse 8

⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Double minded means: **a)** wavering, uncertain, doubting
b) divided in interest.

****Double-minded - Literally means a man with 2 souls or 2 minds inside him.** One trusts God and one distrusts God. A Double-minded man doesn't know what/who to believe.

A double-minded man is never sure of anything. He goes from one calling to another and from one line of service to another,

A DOUBLE-MINDED CHRISTIAN DOESN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST.

Why? Verse 8 says he’s unstable.

A DOUBLE-MINDED CHRISTIAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.

James 4:8

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

****This has to do with a person who can't make up their mind between serving God or the world. This person desires the things of the world and the things of God. They cannot decide if Jesus is worth what it will cost them in the world system.** This describes much of the Church world today.

****Paul agrees clearly agrees with James.**

1Cor 10:21

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

****Jesus agrees with James in Mat 6:24.**

Matt 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.

Joshua 24:15 says:

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

You've got Double minded people in The Church.

Acts 5

¹But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

²And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

³But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Double minded: It's either The Holy Ghost or Satan...

Verse 9

⁹Be afflicted, (negative) and mourn, (negative) and weep (negative): let your laughter be turned to mourning, (negative) and your joy to heaviness. (Again Negative)

And what James is talking about here is sins which he mentioned in chapter 3.

Again verse 9:

The word rendered "be afflicted" means, properly, to endure toil or hardship; then to endure affliction or distress; and here means, that they were *to afflict themselves*--that is, they were to feel distressed and sad on account of their transgressions.

"Let your laughter be turned to mourning." We shouldn't be laughing at our sins.

"and your joy to heaviness."

It means *dejection, sorrow*. It is sorrow on account of sin, God has so made us that we should feel sorrow when we are conscious that we have done wrong, and it is appropriate that we should do so.

Well what should the Christian do?

Verse 10

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

Now, here's a great verse for the Christian!

Now you notice that we're to Humble ourselves. We shouldn't ask a family member or a friend to Humble us.

We shouldn't ask God to Humble us; we should Humble ourselves before we start dealing with God.

If we do ask God to Humble us, He'll do it, but it'll probably involve Chastisement, which the typical Christian can't handle.

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

What's the opposite of being Humble?

Pride, uh oh....

Proverbs 16:18 says:

¹⁸Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

If your Humble God will lift you up, and

If your full of Pride, that Pride will destroy you.

Luke 14:11

¹¹For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Let God lift you up, Amen!

Being Humble is a requirement of Christian Service,

Micah 6:8

⁸He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

We're to put on Humbleness,

Colossians 3:12

¹²Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Peter says we're to be clothed with it in:

1 Peter 5:5

⁵Likewise, 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.

Jesus says the Humble are blessed in:

Matthew 5:3

³Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

God says He listens to the Humble:

Psalm 9:12

¹²When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

Jesus says the Humble are the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 18:4

⁴Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And remember Jesus Christ is our example of being Humble!

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

Why does God give us a lot of Bible verses on being Humble?

‘Cause He wants us to be Humble, ding-ding-ding!

Verse 11

¹¹Speak 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.

And what James is saying here, is that if you make yourself a judge – and you judge by the law, and yet you don’t do what the law says, well that’s not right.

Remember, nobodies above “The Law”...

Verse 12

¹²There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? And here’s a question.

Verse 11 & 12 have an OT flavor to it with mentioning of the law, but this matches up with the NT.

Remember in our Intro. about how James and Paul are similar?

Paul says in:

Romans 14:13

¹³Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Let's apply this to us NT Christians.

So think Brothers and Sisters in Christ here, you can Judge what they do is right or wrong, remember what Paul said in:

1 Corinthians 2:15-16

¹⁵But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

Alright, so far so good, and remember last Weds., the lesson on Judging?

God's Rules for Judging:

Judge Scripturally

Our standard is God's word, not our feelings, our traditions, or our opinions. Right and wrong should always be determined by God's word.

Isaiah 8:20

²⁰To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Don't Judge When God's Word Is Silent

If God's word is silent about a subject, then you may not have to judge at all. Don't rush to judgment on an issue when the Bible says very little or is silent about it. Don't make more of a matter than God makes of it. A good example of this is found in Colossians 2:16: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:" That is, these are not subjects of great importance today, so let's not make these great issues of judgment.

Pray for Good Judgement Ability

When Solomon received his kingdom he asked God to "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" (I Kings 3:9) James 1:5 says, "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." We should pray for good judgment ability.

Don't Respect Persons

Proverbs 24:23 says, "These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment." Treat all parties fairly without favoring anyone, such as family members or friends. A truly fair judge is blind and deaf to any outer influence. (Isa. 42:1, 19-21)

Judge in Truth

Do not judge another when you do not have all the relevant facts. Jeremiah 5:1 says, "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it." A true judge is one who seeks the truth. If you must judge, be sure and get all the facts. A Japanese proverb says to "search seven times before you judge."

Judge Mercifully

Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:2: "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." You'll reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7-8). If you are swift and harsh in judging others, then God will see to it that you receive the same from others. Has God not been very merciful to you, even though you deserved it not? Likewise, you should exercise mercy toward others.

We are also not to judge motives.

Only God can see into the heart and know the motives that underlie actions.

1 Corinthians 4:5

⁵Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Don't Forget to Judge Yourself

I Corinthians 11:30-31: "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." If you are a true Christian, then you belong to God. You are God's child. If you refuse to judge and improve yourself as a child of God, then God will take it upon Himself to judge you. Many of the troubles that we face in life are nothing more than God's way of judging us since we often neglect to judge ourselves.

Wouldn't it be amazing if every Christian actually took time to judge themselves before judging anyone else? In Matthew 7:4-5, Jesus says, "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." A good judge will not fail to judge himself.

And we'll stop here and Lord willing finish chap 4 next week!

Let's Pray...

James 02/05/12

James 4

Verse 13

¹³Go 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:

“and get gain” and that’s money, Today and tomorrow. And James continues that thought in verse 14:

Verse 14

¹⁴Whereas 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.

This is a big verse so let’s brake it down.

And as we get closer & closer to the Rapture, Tribulation and The Lord’s Return, we as a Society get more and more unsure of time.

We say: “Time just blew by”

Back in old days in you were born into a Farming family, you were gonna be a Farmer your whole life; till the day you died.

But not today; we have a bad economy, people lose and change jobs. We have mass transit and Airplanes.

According to The State Department now estimates that 6.3million Americans are studying or working abroad, the highest number on record.

Around 8.6 million to 11 million overseas Filipinos are the estimated count worldwide or about 11% of the total population of the Philippines.

These Filipinos are referred to as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). "Global Filipino" is another term of more recent years.

And James is talking about Today and Tomorrow, today in New York tomorrow in Manila.

We're a busy fast paced Global Society.

Daniel 12:4

⁴But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

And now we have a question in **verse 14**: "For what is your life?"

That's a great question!

Is it a life filled with Jesus? Or is it a life filled with self?

If you're a Christian: every day should be filled with Jesus!

Let every day count for Him!

Paul says we're to "Finish the race set before us"

Why? Verse 14

"For what is your life?-Question, And here's the answer: It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

That's why we say: "Here today, gone tomorrow!"

Remember the story Jesus told in:

Luke 12:16-21

¹⁶And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

¹⁷And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

¹⁸And 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.

¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰But 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?

²¹So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

My friend, the only thing worth living for is Jesus Christ!

And the only thing worth dying for is Jesus Christ!

We're in this life not for gain but Jesus Christ! **Again verse 14:**

“It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Life is fast here's a picture illustration comparing life to a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Job has quite a few comments on how fast life is:

Job 7:6, He says:

⁶My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

Job 7:9

⁹As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

Job 9:25-26

²⁵Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.

²⁶They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.

Job 10:20

²⁰Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,

Ecclesiastes 1:4

⁴One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

Life is short, live for The Lord!

Verse 15

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

And is in reference to verse 13 here,

It's a good thing to say if you promise something to somebody; it's a good thing to tack on at the end of your sentence: "Lord Willing"

- I'll see you tomorrow for lunch, Lord Willing!

- I'll be there to help you out next week, Lord Willing,

If The Lord isn't willing, you might not make it to that lunch date!

Verse 16

¹⁶But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

That is Boasting in what your gonna do in verse 13.

“All such rejoicing is evil”

And what this verse means is that if what you're Boasting in doesn't involve The Lord, then it's evil.

Boasting is Bad when you Boast about Self:

Proverbs 27:1

¹Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Psalm 94:4

⁴How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?

Boasting is Good when you Boast about God:

Psalm 44:8

⁸In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

Paul says we can Boast about each other in:

2 Corinthians 8:24

²⁴Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

Verse 17

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

Bob Jones SR. used to say: “It is a sin to do less than your best.”

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

What are some Bible examples of this?

Moses, God said to speak to the Rock to get water, and Moses struck the Rock. Moses “knoweth to do good, and doeth it not” and God counted it as Sin. Moses didn’t see the Promised Land.

We might say something like there’s a difference between a Head mistake and a Heart mistake.

Moses loved God with his Heart, but with his head he struck the Rock.

Judas Iscariot, with his head he was a Disciple, but with his Heart he sold out The Lord for 30 pieces of Silver, he then hung himself and ended up in the bottomless pit, it was sin.

Under New Testament Grace, God knows our Heart, and He knows if we love Him, and when we sin with our Heart, He’ll try to work out for you. Oh. It’ll involve chastisement.

We’ll stop here and start chapter 5 next week!

Let’s Pray...

James 02/12/12

James

Verse 1

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

Scofield call this: The Rich Warned. Or A Warning to Rich People.

It's a warning to Rich People and a severe condemnation of the way in which they lived, here in verses 1-6, and it's was written to encourage and strengthen poor and oppressed Christians who were abused by these Rich People.

Verse 2

Here's the Condemnation:

²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

Jesus said on The Sermon on the Mount in:

Matthew 6:19-20

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

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

Verse 3

³Your 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.

That word in verse 3: Cankered that's from the Latin: Cancer,

“Your gold and silver is cankered and the rust of them shall be a witness against you,” The idea here is that that rust will eat out gold and silver like a Cancer eats out flesh.

And you see that having Gold & Silver can be a Curse, some of the Richest people in the world had that curse.

An example of this: Howard Hughes, he had a lot of gold & silver, and yet he died a crazy man, he suffered malnutrition, he was a recluse...

The end of verse 3: “Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.” “The last days”- pointing to the Rapture and Tribulation.

Verse 4

⁴Behold, 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.

Here you see how these Rich People are dishonest in their Business, and how The Bible sides with the workers.

But The Bible isn't Communist, it's Capitalist!

In Matthew chap 20 you have the Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard, where the workers are complaining about their pay, and The Bible sides with the Owner. We read in:

Matthew 20:13-15

¹³But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

¹⁴Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

¹⁵Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

We have the Virtuous Woman in Proverbs 31,

Proverbs 31:

¹⁶She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

¹⁹She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

²⁴She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

The Bible, America believes in the Free Market Capitalism!

The end of verse 4: “and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.”

That word “sabaoth” It doesn’t mean Sabbath, it’s a OT expression “The Lord of Hosts”, referring to The Lord’s Second Advent.

Verse 5

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

That word wanton means lose, a wanton woman is a lose woman, you “living La Vida Loca” as the song went.

“ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.” The thought there is that you kill a bunch of animals and fill your bellies with that meat.

Verse 6

⁶Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

James is speaking in the past tense here: Ye have condemned, Verse 5: Ye have lived, Verse 6:

⁶Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

Hey, they Killed Jesus Christ and he was just, they'll kill just Christians, This was one of their characteristics that they had been guilty of wrong towards good men. They condemn, they kill...

Verse 7

⁷Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Here's a verse about The Lord's Second Coming.

Look at the end of the verse, you see:

"early rains" In Bible times the "early Rains" which start in the Fall usually in late October or the beginning of November, and continue to fall heavily for two months.

"latter rains" fall in March and April, and serve to swell the grain then coming to maturity. Farmers would look for these rains.

Now there is some Theological Applications made here.

How many people have heard of: "Latter rain Theology"? It's part of the Charismatic movement Theology. They say that an end-time revival and that the Holy Spirit will be poured out like never before.

They teach that the Acts 2 outpouring of the Holy Spirit was the "early rain" but the "latter rain" outpouring of the Holy Spirit will occur at the end-times (which is now occurring).

The simplest meaning here is that before The Lord returns, they'll be a lot of rain.

And when you search out The Lord's return and latter rain, you'll see physical rain connected.

Hosea 6:3 (A verse on The Lord's Second Coming)

³Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. (Physical Rain)

Psalms 68:7-9 (Another verse on The Lord's Second Coming)

⁷O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah:

⁸The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

You see – Physical Rain!

Let's look at the verse again:

⁷Be patient therefore, brethren, unto **the coming of the Lord**. (Ok) Behold, the husbandman **waiteth** for the precious fruit of the earth, **and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.**

Verse 8

Here's an Illustration:

⁸Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Just like the farmer does, in due time, as he expects the rain, we as Christians expect the return of The Lord...

He's coming back Amen!

Verse 9

⁹Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

“Grudge not” The idea is that of being fretful and impatient with grumblings, which is the opposite of what James told us told in Verse 8 which is to be Patient!

“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned:”

That is, for *judging* others with that Grudging and Grumblings...

“behold, the judge standeth before the door.”

The Lord Jesus, who is soon to come back and judge the world, He's so close to returning that's He's standing at the door. You ever hear someone say: “Here comes the Judge” they got it from James!

You ever stand at someone's door and before you knocked you can hear the people on the other side yelling and screaming, grumbling...?

And if knew The Lord was coming, shouldn't you be getting rid of those grudges.

Verse 10

¹⁰Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

In verse 10 here James mentions the Prophets, in verse 11 he mentions Job and in verse 17 Elijah.

He's writing to The Twelve Tribes so they know who these OT men are.

Paul commenting about The OT writes in:

Romans 15:4

⁴For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Going back to verse 10:

¹⁰Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

James is saying: if The Prophets were suffering and afflicted, so are you gonna suffer and be afflicted.

In verse 11 he gives an example of an OT Saint who suffered and was afflicted:

Verse 11

¹¹Behold, 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.

And we see the second half of the verse:

“and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”

That’s talking about what The Lord did in the end of the Book of Job.

Job was afflicted, Job suffered, The name Job means: Persecuted!

But we see that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Let’s look at the end of Job here, let’s turn to:

Job 42:10-17

¹⁰And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹¹Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

¹²So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

¹³He had also seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch.

¹⁵And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

¹⁶After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.

¹⁷So Job died, being old and full of days.

And because Job endured and was patient, look at the Blessings from God, again: verse 11:

“Behold, we count them happy which endure.”

It's good to be Bible Happy!

Verse 12

¹²But 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.

“swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth,”

We Christians shouldn't be saying things like: “For Heaven's Sake” or “My Stars” or “For Land's Sake”, that's swearing...

“but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay;”

When you say yes, let it be yes, and you don't have to swear with your yes,

You shouldn't say: “Yes, I'll do it for Heaven's sake!” – Just say yes!

And, let your no be no,

Remember yes means yes, yes doesn't mean maybe...

And don't say maybe, when in your heart you're saying no...

The reason why people curse when they say yes or no is because they think the curse word will intimidate and some power to the yes or.

We shouldn't do that, why?

Verse 12: “lest ye fall into condemnation.”

You'll be condemned for speaking like that.

What was James chapter 3 all about? The Tongue!

Got's to watch that Tongue and Cursing...

Let's Pray...

James 02/26/12

James Chapter 5

Verse 13

¹³Is any among you afflicted? (Simple Question): let him pray. Is any merry? (Another Simple Question): let him sing psalms.

You feel afflicted? Then Pray. You're Feeling Good? Then Sing Psalms!

The Bible got some very simple answers to life's situations,

Everybody can Pray and Sing, you don't need practice or talent.

Paul writing to a Church in:

Ephesians 5:19

¹⁹Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

What did Paul and Silas do when they were being Afflicted in:

Acts 16:25

²⁵And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Verse 14, Another Simple Question:

¹⁴Is any sick among you? (Are you then supposed to go to the Charismatic Church's Healing Service?)

Do you get on the TV Preachers Healing Telephone Hotline and for a Donation; he'll send you some Healing Napkin?

No, continuing in Verse 14:

let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

You're to call for the Elders (plural, unlike the single Faith Healer you see on TV), and the Elders Pray over you. Let the Elders anoint you with oil in the name of The Lord.

That's New Testament Church. You're sick: call me or another Elder and we'll gather up the Elders and we'll Pray over you, I'll put some Olive Oil on your head in the name of The Lord.

And you notice they did this in the name of The Lord.

Jesus said in:

John 14:13-14

¹³And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Paul writing to a Church in:

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Now let's say you have a cold, do you call the Elders right away?

Here's a common sense approach to do if you're sick:

1. The first thing you should do is Pray.
2. Take some Home remedies; Chicken Noodle soup etc..

Be careful about always running to Doctor when you're sick. First they're expensive, second; sometime you can become sicker.

Hey, I'm not against Doctors. Jesus Christ Himself said in:

Matthew 9:12

¹²But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

Luke is called the "Beloved Physician" in Colossians 4:14, and if The Holy Spirit calls him Beloved, then it's a good thing.

I'm just a little leery of Doctors and Pills.

As the old saying goes: "You don't need Pills, you need the Gos-Pill!"

3. If Praying and Chicken Noodle soup don't work, then see a Doctor.

4. Take that Medicine the Doctor prescribed you.

5. If the Meds don't work, get back to Praying.

6. If Praying don't work, then James 5:14.

7. If James 5:14 don't work, then:

Romans 8:28

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Just trust God for the outcome.

Verse 15

¹⁵And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

You notice that sometimes the reason for your sickness is because of your sins.

Emphysema=Smoking. Cirrhosis=Alcoholism.

And the Prayer of Faith is in verses 14&16.

And if the Elders Praying over you have no Faith, then James 5:14 is worthless. Make sure the Elders are Godly men.

Verse 16

¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Notice we're to confess our Faults not Sins one to another.

The definition of Fault is a defect, a blunder, a mistake, an error.

The definition of Sin is a voluntary transgression of God's Law.

Here's some Faults:

- Not caring for lost people.
- Not being Punctual for Church Services.
- Your attitude: No smile, you're crabby, uptight. These are Faults.

You notice we're to confess our Faults to each other. James 5:16

We're to confess our Sins to God. **1 John 1:9 says:**

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You notice we don't confess our Sins to a Priest or another person, we confess our Sins to God.

Jesus Christ is our mediator, **1 Timothy 2:5**

⁵For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Continuing in verse 16: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

When you Pray you should be:

1. Effectual. Effectual means: Producing an effect, or the effect desired or intended; or having adequate power or force to produce the effect.
2. Fervent. Fervent means: earnest; excited; animated; glowing; as fervent zeal.
3. Righteous. Righteous means: Just; accordant to the divine law. Holy in heart, and observant of the divine commands in practice.

When you Pray effectually, fervently and righteously it availeth much.

Availeth means it to profit one's self.

Verses 17 & 18 is an Illustration of one who Prayed this way:

¹⁷Elias 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.

¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

That Prayer is found in:

1 Kings 18:36-37

³⁶And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, **LORD God of Abraham,**

Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

And James wraps it up here in:

Verses 19 & 20

¹⁹Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

²⁰Let 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.

As James comes to the close of his epistle, he stresses the importance of restoring those who wander from the truth.

Restoring straying saints is a responsibility given to ALL who are truly the children of God

Paul writing in:

Galatians 6:1-2

¹Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

²Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Some people teach that this is a verse where you can lose your Salvation and then get it back.

But in verse 20 it says:

²⁰Let 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.

That word soul is referring to a person. You ever hear someone say: “And ten souls were lost at sea”? That means ten people.

Two things are accomplished when a sinning Christian is turned from the error of his way:

1. One is saved from death.
2. A multitude of sins are covered.

Alright, we finished James!

Let's Pray...