

# FAITH THAT WORKS

*James 1-2*



# Key Word

267

# Works

James

# Theme

**Faith is Revealed  
through Works**

**James**

# Key Verse

**“Do not merely listen to the word, and so  
deceive yourselves. Do what it says”  
(1:22).**

**James**

**Early Jewish believers in the Roman world  
should show their faith through works to  
replace their hypocrisy with good deeds in  
maturity and holiness.**

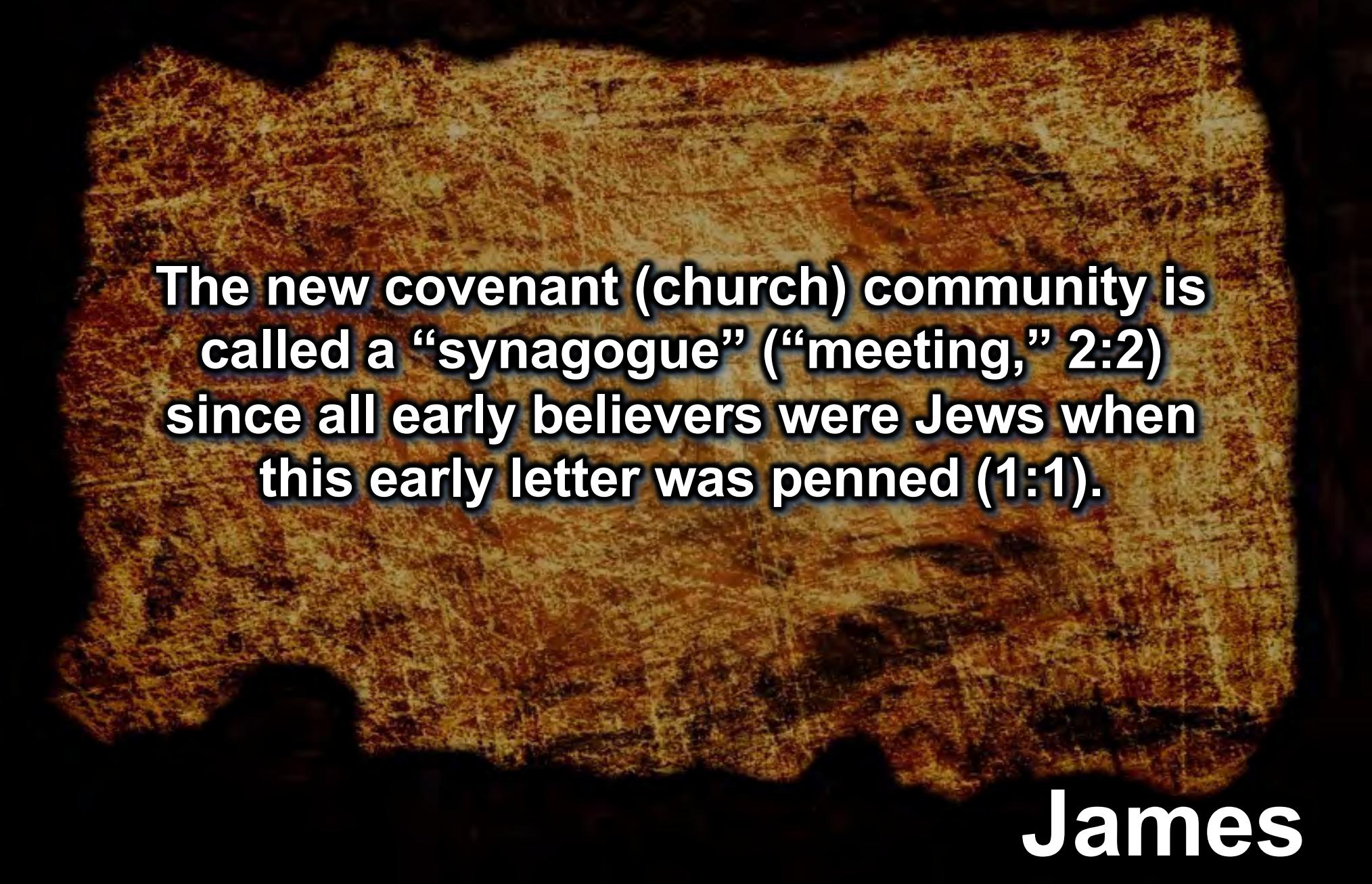
**James**

# Kingdom Statement

**The readers were believers since they are deemed “brothers” (1:2, 16, 19; 2:1, 5, 14; 3:1, 10, 12; 4:11; 5:7, 9, 10, 12, 19). Their key need was to show Christ’s kingdom rule in their behavior.**

**James**

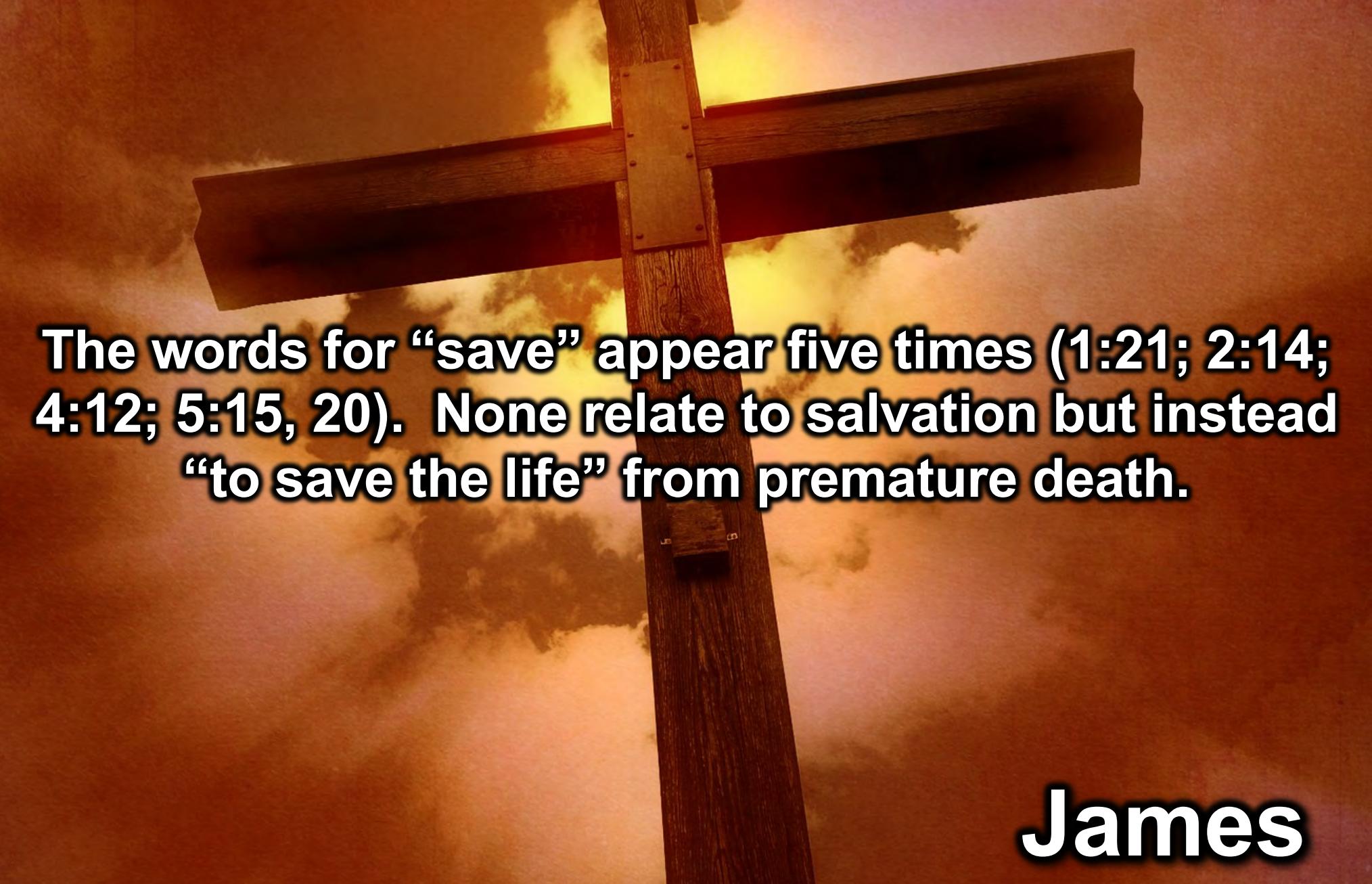
# Covenant



**The new covenant (church) community is called a “synagogue” (“meeting,” 2:2) since all early believers were Jews when this early letter was penned (1:1).**

**James**

# Redemption



**The words for “save” appear five times (1:21; 2:14; 4:12; 5:15, 20). None relate to salvation but instead “to save the life” from premature death.**

**James**

# Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

**The recipients had faith in “our Lord Jesus Christ” (2:1) but needed to put away their hypocritical, double-minded (1:8; 3:10) dispositions in order to grow in maturity and holiness. In effect the author says, “If Jesus is truly Lord, then act like it!”**

**James**

## Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Trials	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favoritism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Ultimately Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Prepare Obey	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Be Wise	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation

*Jerusalem*

*AD 44-47*

**James**

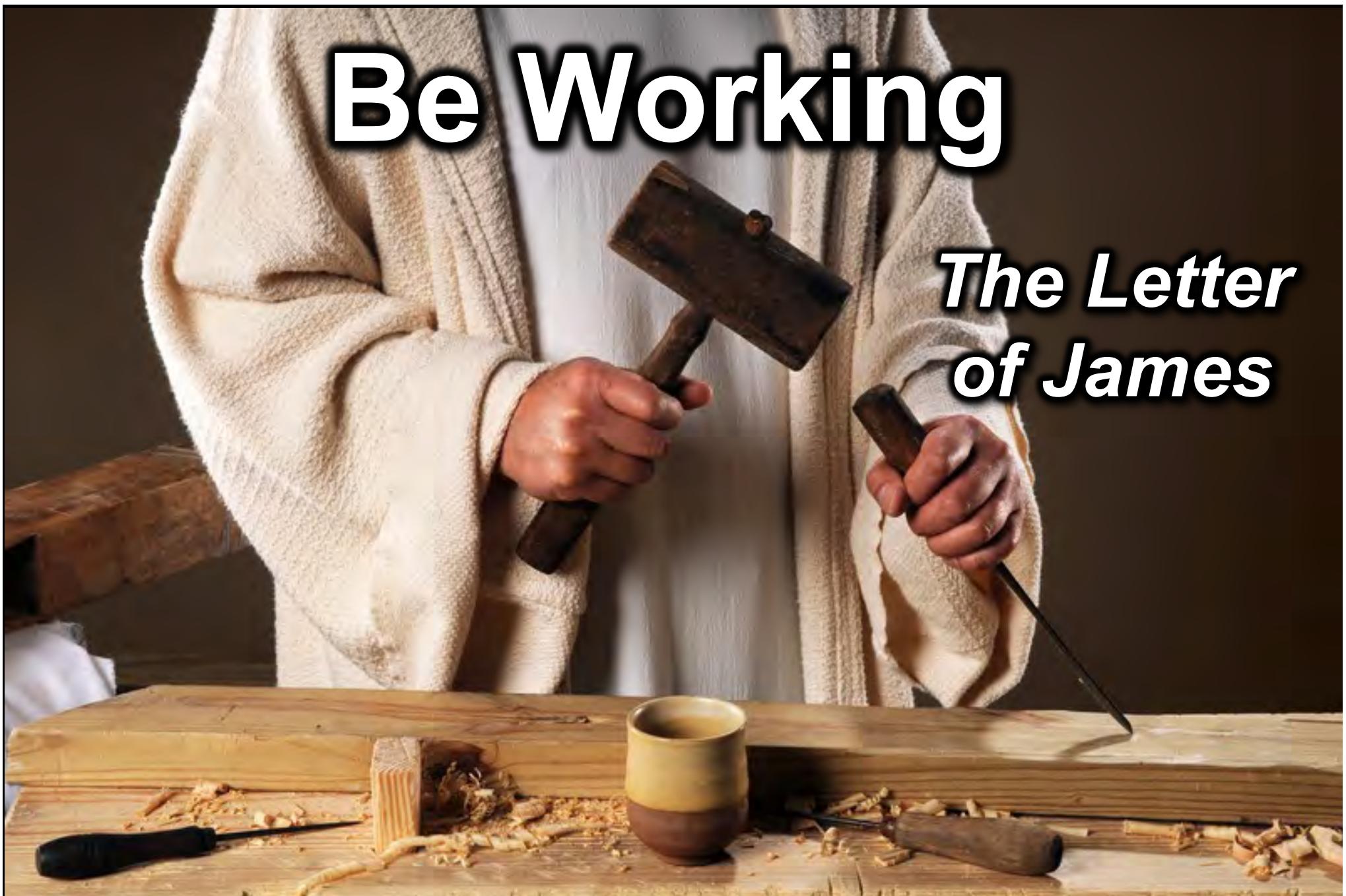


- 1 **W**orking patience through trials
- 2 **O**bEDIENCE that accomPIES fAIth
- 3 **R**estraining the unbridled tongue
- 4 **K**eeping calm in conflicts
- 5 **S**uffering and sick saints

# James

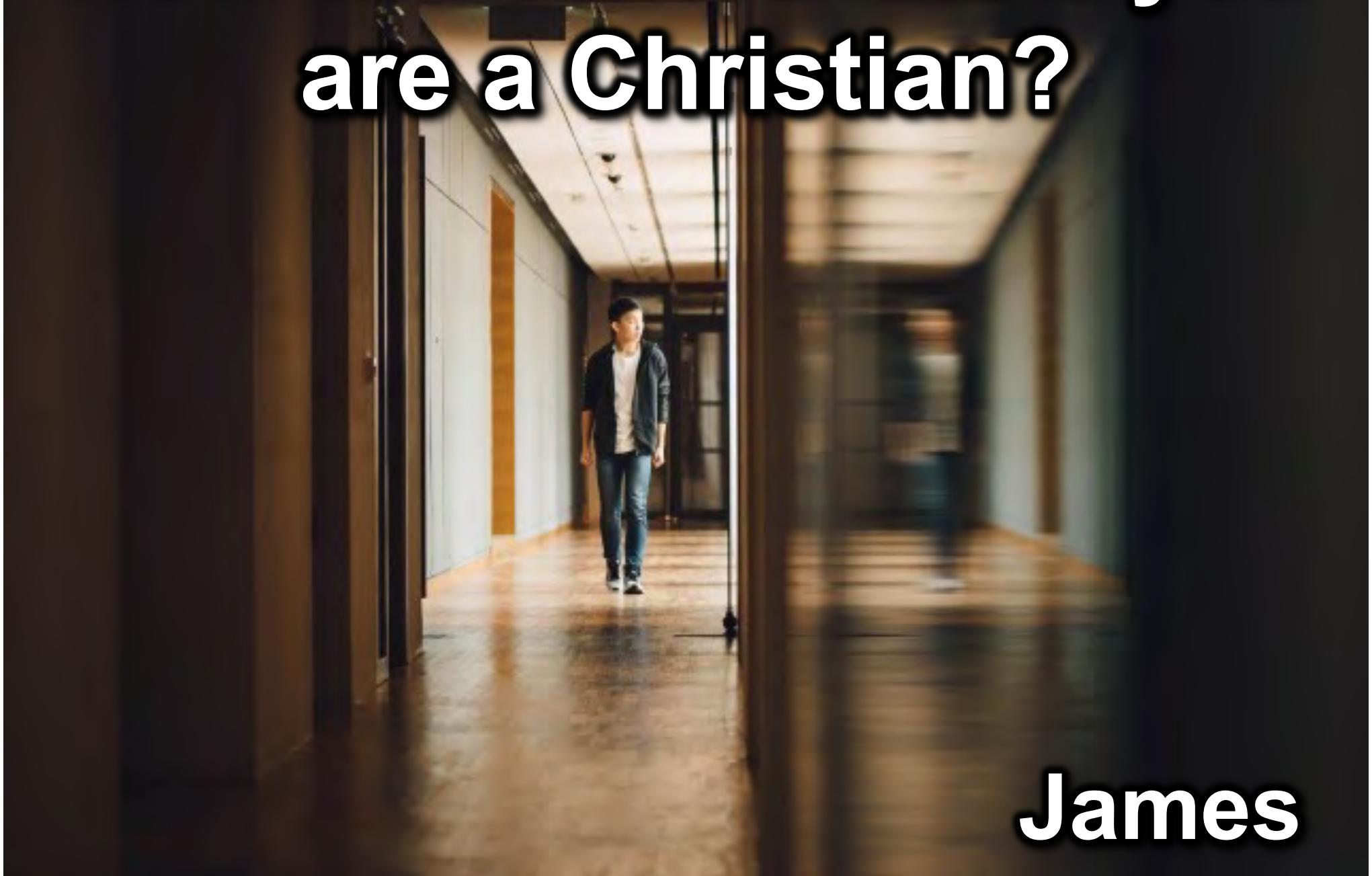
# Be Working

*The Letter  
of James*



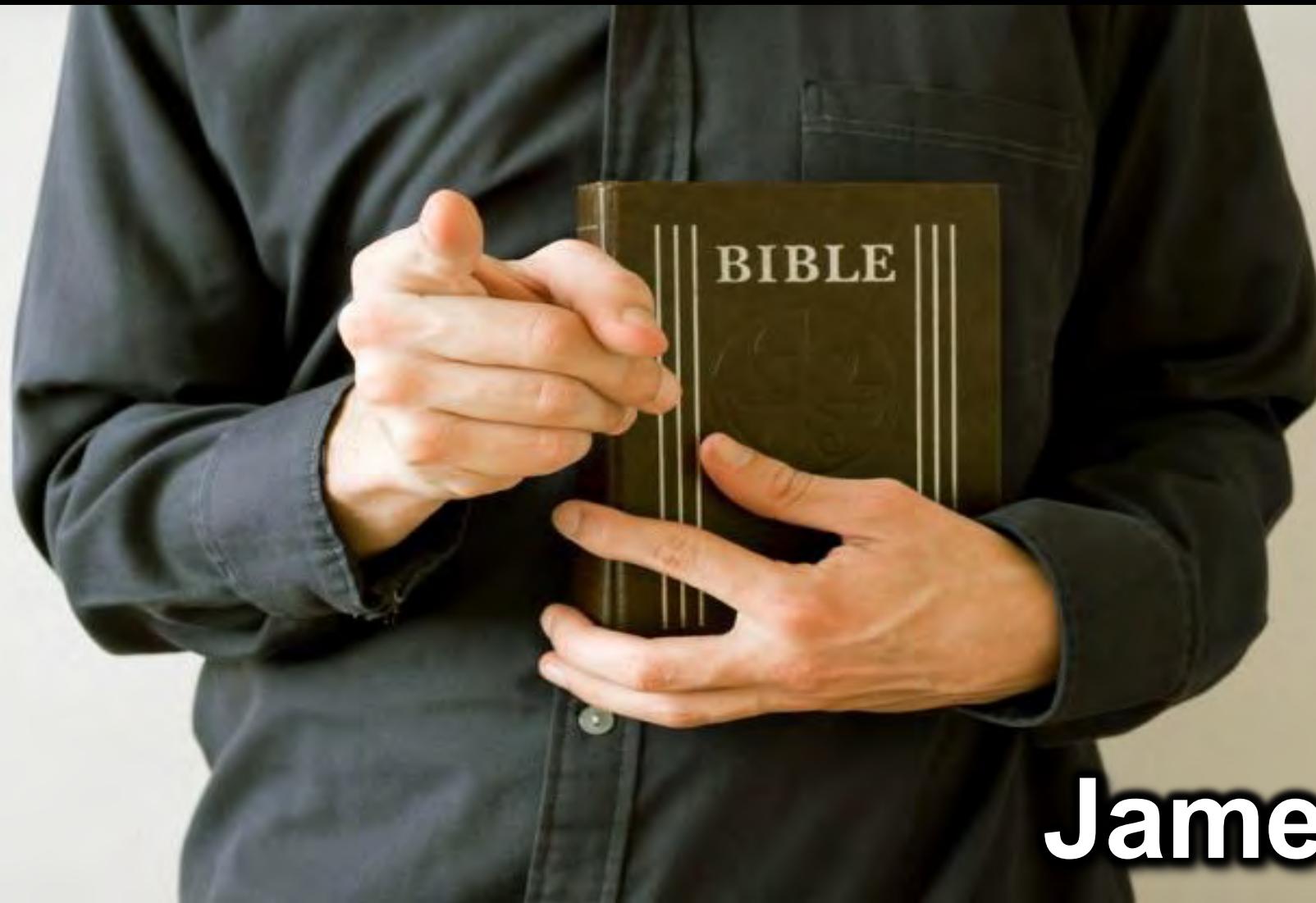
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# How will others know you are a Christian?



James

# How will others know you are a Christian?



James

What are the  
characteristics of  
faith?

James

# Summary Statement

Early Jewish believers in the Roman world should show their faith through works to replace their hypocrisy with good deeds in maturity and holiness

**W****O****R****K**  
**S****T****E****A****T****M**  
**E****M****E****R****C****E****R**  
**E****Y****E****U****S**  
**E****Y****E****U****S**

James

**IF YOU  
BELIEVE**



**SHOW IT**

*Main Idea of James*

# Commands in James

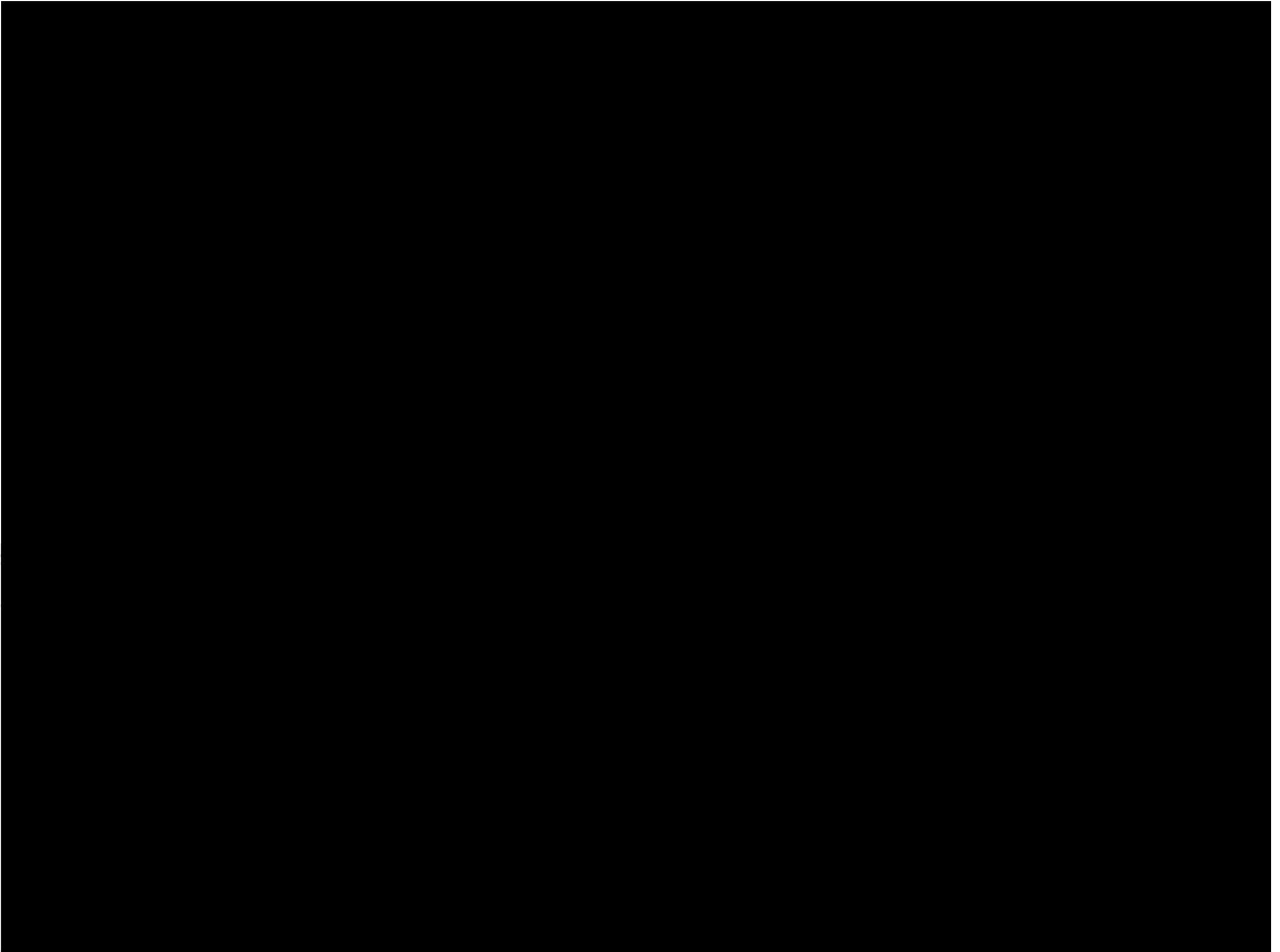
274a

Verse	Imperatives	Personal Application
1:13, 16	<b>Do not be deceived</b>	<b>When tempted, I must not deceive myself and say that God is tempting me.</b>
1:21	<b>Get rid of moral filth</b>	<b>I must not let the moral filth of anger make me say careless words but let God's Word be firmly planted in me.</b>
1:22	<b>Do not merely listen</b>	<b>I must do what the Word says and not merely listen.</b>
2:1,5	<b>Do not show favoritism</b>	<b>I must treat everyone with equity regardless of wealth, race or authority in my work and ministry.</b>
2:12	<b>Speak and act as those going to be judged</b>	<b>I must speak and act with mercy knowing that God will judge.</b>
2:18	<b>Show me your faith</b>	<b>I must show my faith in good deeds, such as to help the poor and needy.</b>
3:10	<b>Do not praise and curse from the same mouth</b>	<b>I must be conscious of the words I speak and thereby control my tongue.</b>
4:7	<b>Submit yourselves to God</b>	<b>I must submit to God whenever the world tempts me and the devil will flee.</b>

# Commands in James

274a

Verse	Imperatives	Personal Application
4:8	Draw near to God	I must draw near to God in my daily devotions that he might draw close to me.
4:10	Humble yourselves	When I am in any position of authority, I must not be arrogant but humble myself before God.
4:11	Do not slander	I must no slander and speak against anyone but endeavor to preserve the unity of saints.
4:15	Do not boast	Any plans that I make must be committed to God in prayer.
5:7	Be patient	I must be patient when suffering and look forward to the blessed hope of Christ return.
5:9	Do not grumble	If I am unhappy over something, I will not grumble and spread discord amongst others.
5:12	Do not swear	I must make sound decisions and responsible choices without the need to swear.
5:16	Confess your sins	Whenever I fall into sin, I must admit my sins and seek prayers that I may be restored.



# INTRODUCING THE EPISTLE OF JAMES



Dr. David Martin • Amman International Church  
[AmmanChurch.org](http://AmmanChurch.org) • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

# THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

- ✓ One of eight "general" epistles (Hebrews; 1,2 Peter; 1,2,3 John, Jude)
- ✓ Focused on ethical living
  - ☞ 54 commands in 108 verses
  - ☞ 22 Old Testament book references
  - ☞ 15 allusions to Jesus' teachings
- ✓ The "Proverbs of the New Testament"
- ✓ Often misunderstood and neglected (emphasis on works vs. faith)

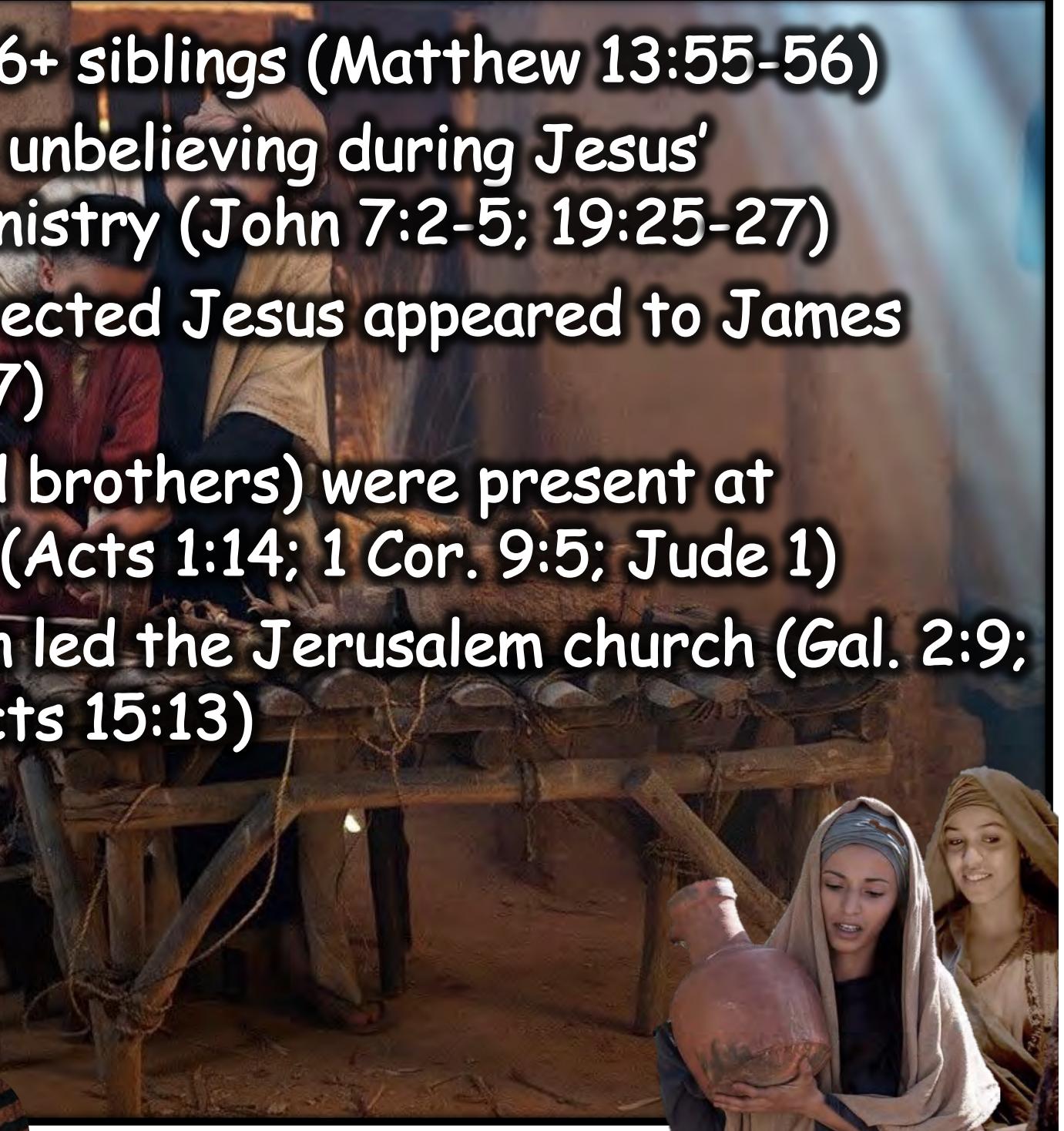
# THE AUTHOR OF THIS LETTER

- 1) James, son of Zebedee; brother of John
- 2) James, son of Alphaeus (Acts 1:13);  
James the less/little (Mark 15:40)
- 3) James, father of the apostle Judas  
“not Iscariot” (John 14:22)
- 4) James, half brother of Jesus;  
James “the just”; born after Jesus  
(Matt. 1:18; Luke 2:7)

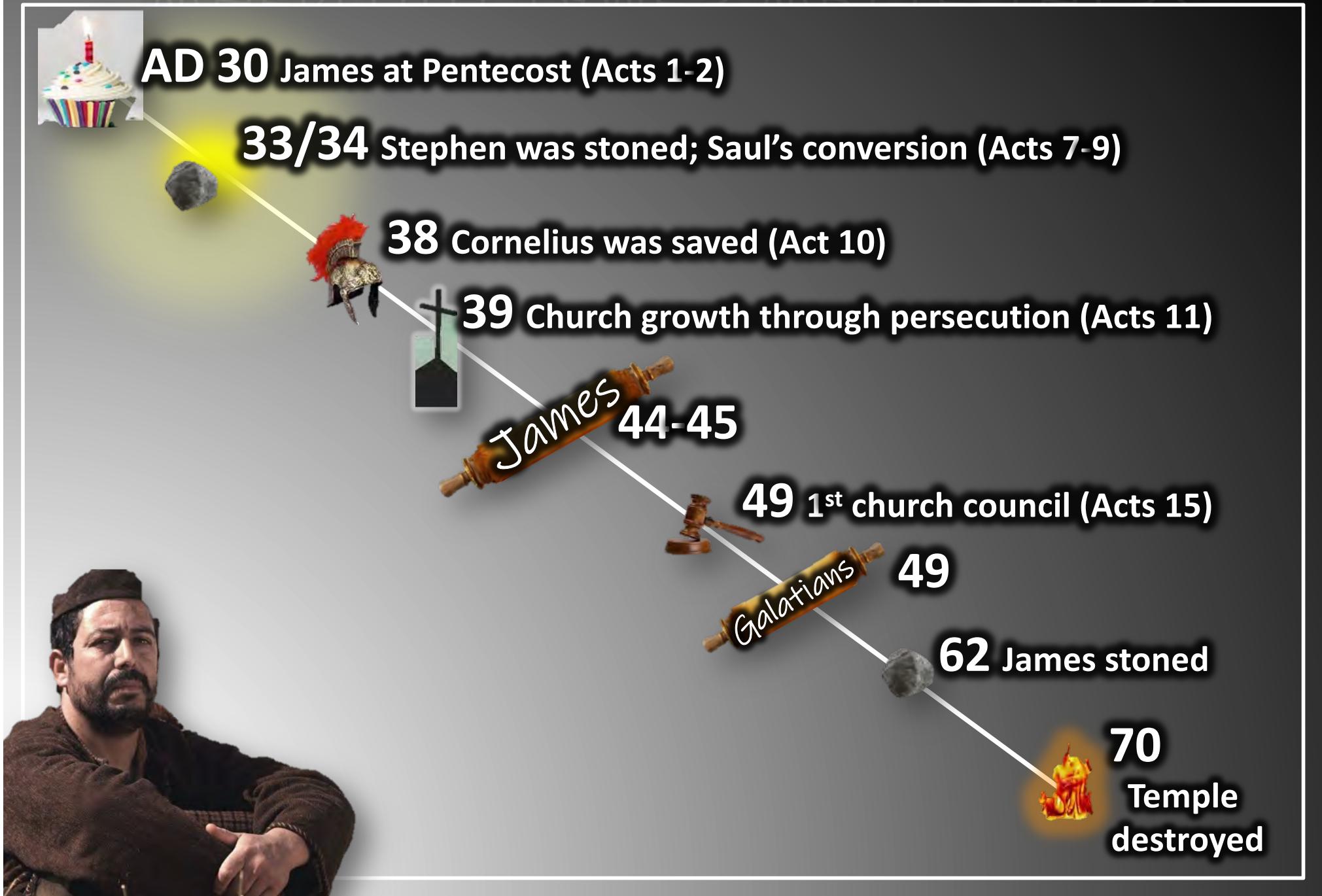
Similarities in Greek between  
Acts 15 and James



- ✓ Jesus had 6+ siblings (Matthew 13:55-56)
- ✓ They were unbelieving during Jesus' earthly ministry (John 7:2-5; 19:25-27)
- ✓ The resurrected Jesus appeared to James (1 Cor. 15:7)
- ✓ James (and brothers) were present at Pentecost (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:5; Jude 1)
- ✓ James soon led the Jerusalem church (Gal. 2:9; cf. 1:19; Acts 15:13)



# WHEN DID JAMES WRITE THIS?



# WHAT WE LEARN OF JAMES IN THIS LETTER

- ☞ He considered himself a bond-servant (1:1)
  - ✓ God (the Father)
  - ✓ The Lord Jesus Christ
- ☞ James shows deep concern for . . .
  - ✓ Responding to trials correctly (1:2-12)
  - ✓ Hearing and **doing** the word (1:21-22)
  - ✓ Marginalized poor (1:27-2:4)
  - ✓ Strong sense of right and wrong (2:8-10)
  - ✓ Confession and prayer (5:16)
  - ✓ Reconciling the backslidden (5:19-20)

# THE FIRST READERS

- ☞ The twelve tribes (descendants of Jacob)
  - ✓ Written mostly to Jewish converts
- ☞ They had been "dispersed" (sown) abroad
  - ✓ Refers to Jews living outside Palestine (cf. Acts 2:5-11)
  - ✓ Dispersed by Assyria (722 BC), Babylon (606-586 BC), and Rome (63 BC)



Roman Road - Antioch

# THE FIRST READERS



Greetings!

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  - ✓ Dispersed by Assyria (722 BC), Babylon (606-586 BC), and Rome (63 BC)
  - ✓ Specifically persecuted Christians (Acts 8:1,3-5; 11:19-21)

# PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TODAY

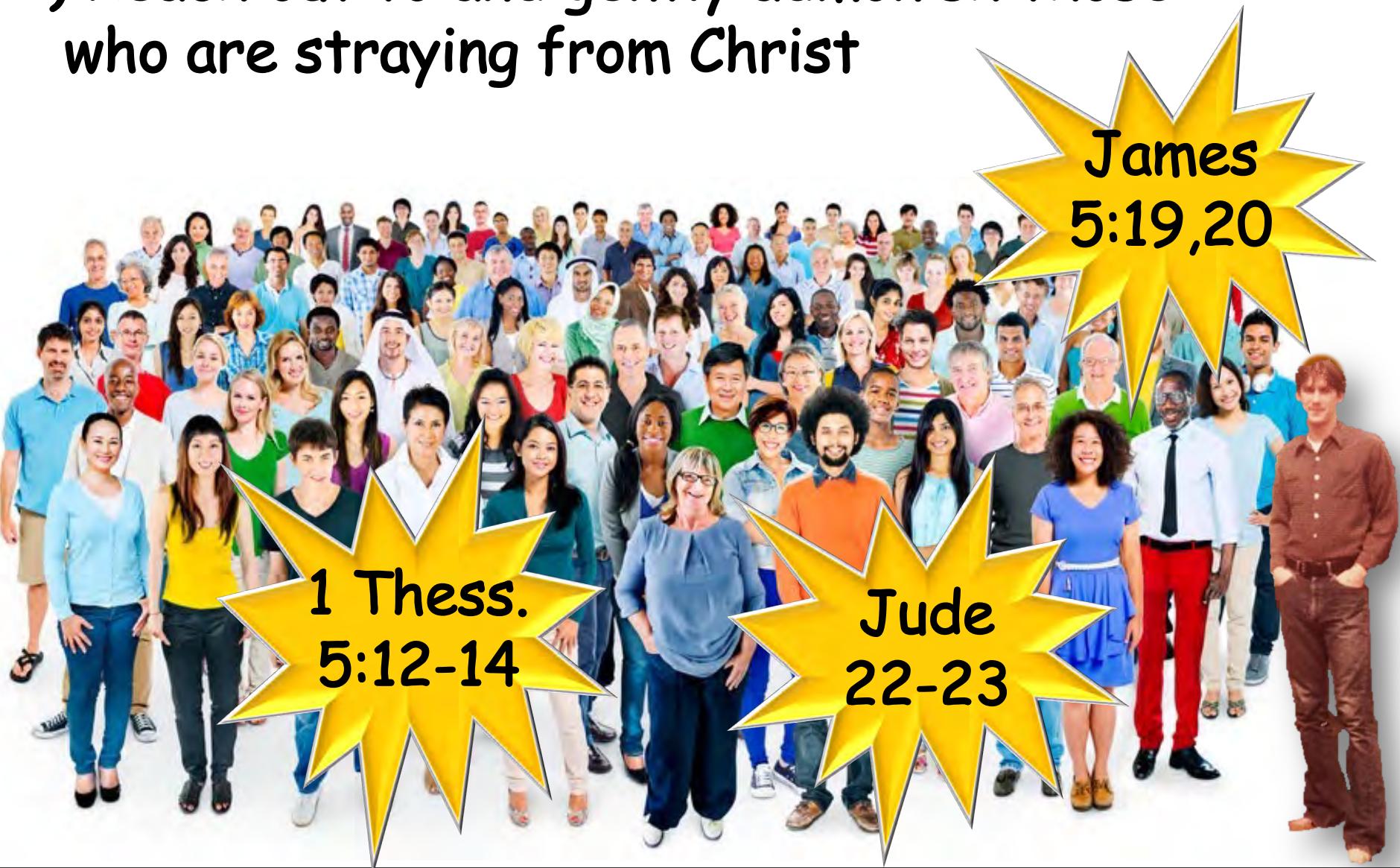
1) No one is beyond hope (don't give up!)

- ☞ James rejected Christ for 30 years
- ☞ He led the Jerusalem church for 30 years

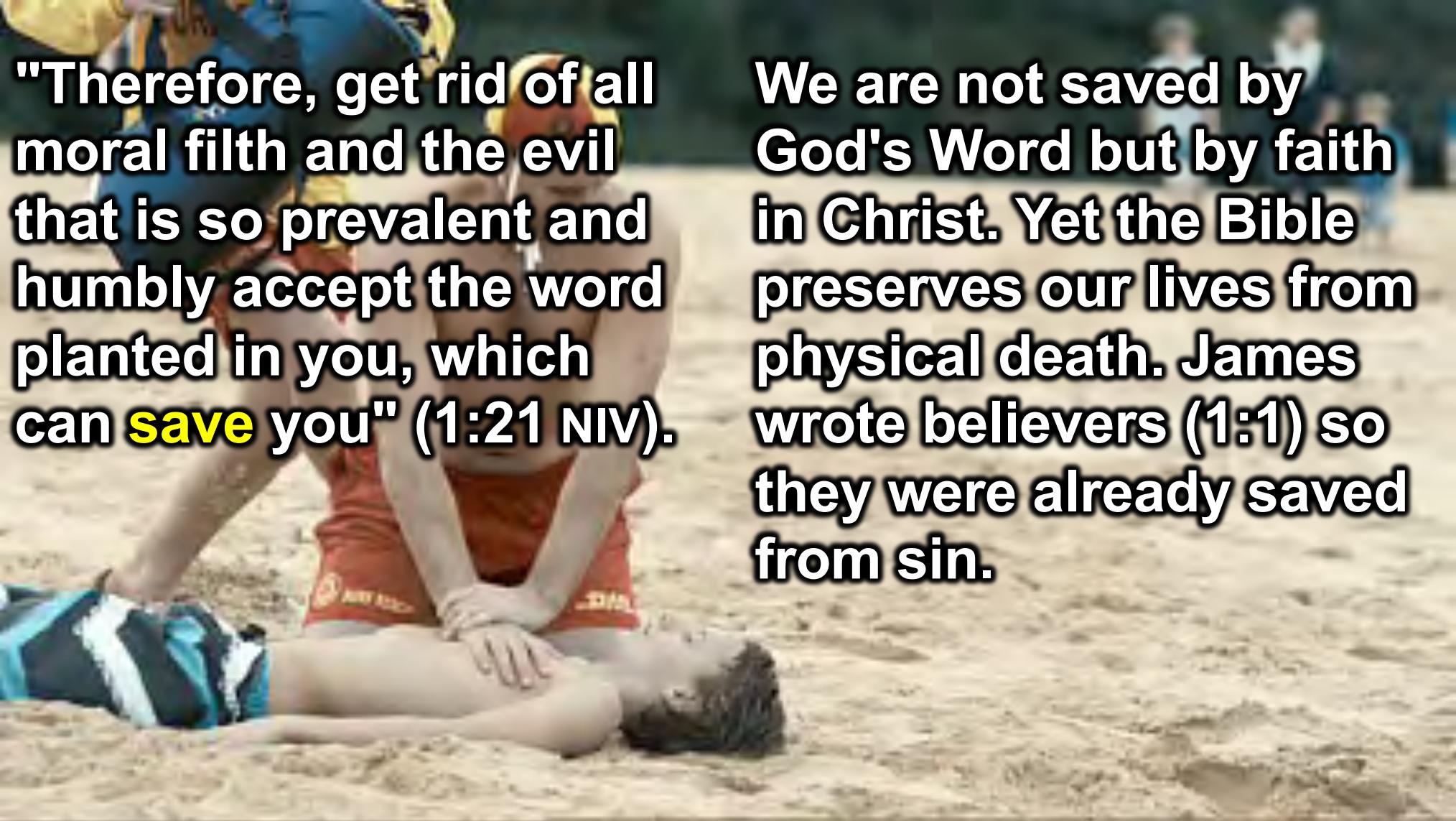


# PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TODAY

2) Reach out to and gently admonish those who are straying from Christ



# Sozo in James

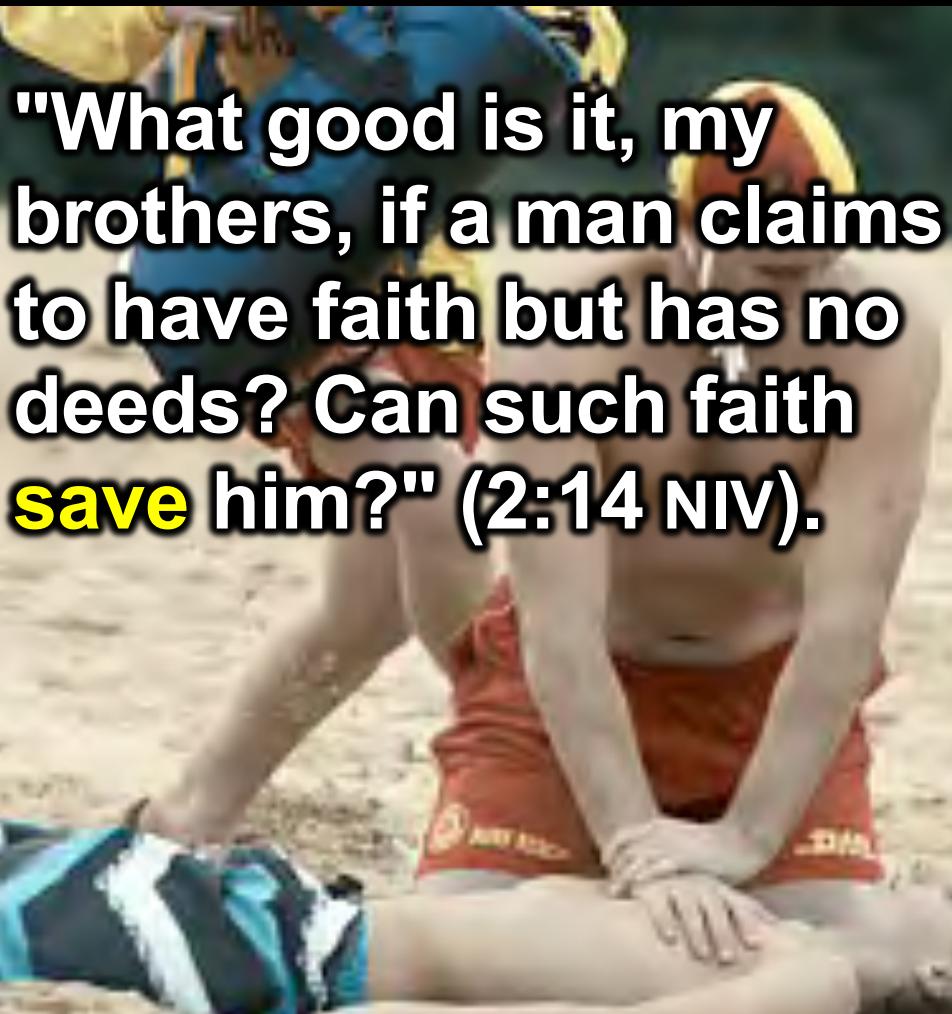


**"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can **save** you" (1:21 NIV).**

**We are not saved by God's Word but by faith in Christ. Yet the Bible preserves our lives from physical death. James wrote believers (1:1) so they were already saved from sin.**

James uses *sozo* not for salvation but instead "to save the life" from premature death (Zane Hodges, *The Epistle of James* [Irving, TX: Grace Evangelical Society, 1994], 41).

# Sozo in James

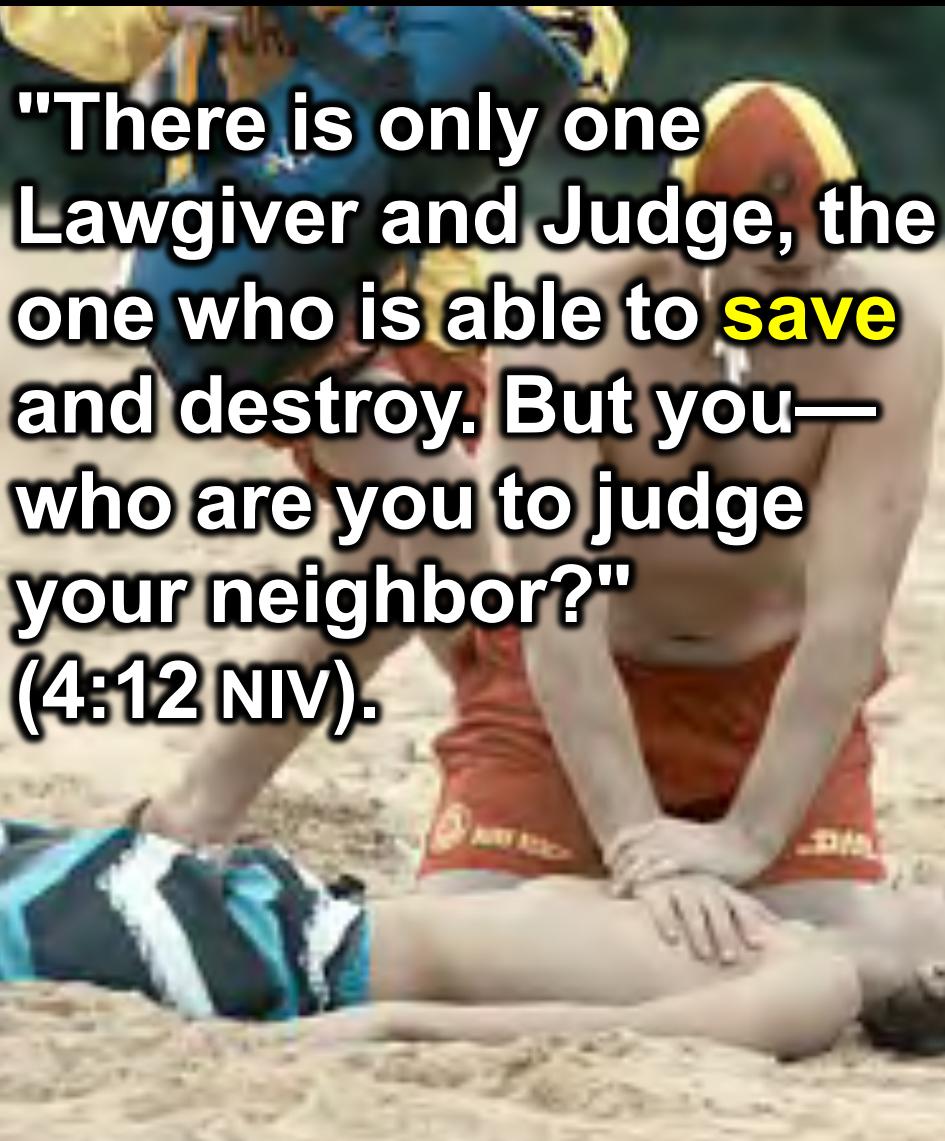


**"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith **save** him?" (2:14 NIV).**

**Paul is clear that we are not saved by faith plus deeds, nor are we saved by faith that is followed by deeds. Rather, our faith shows others that we are saved.**

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# Sozo in James

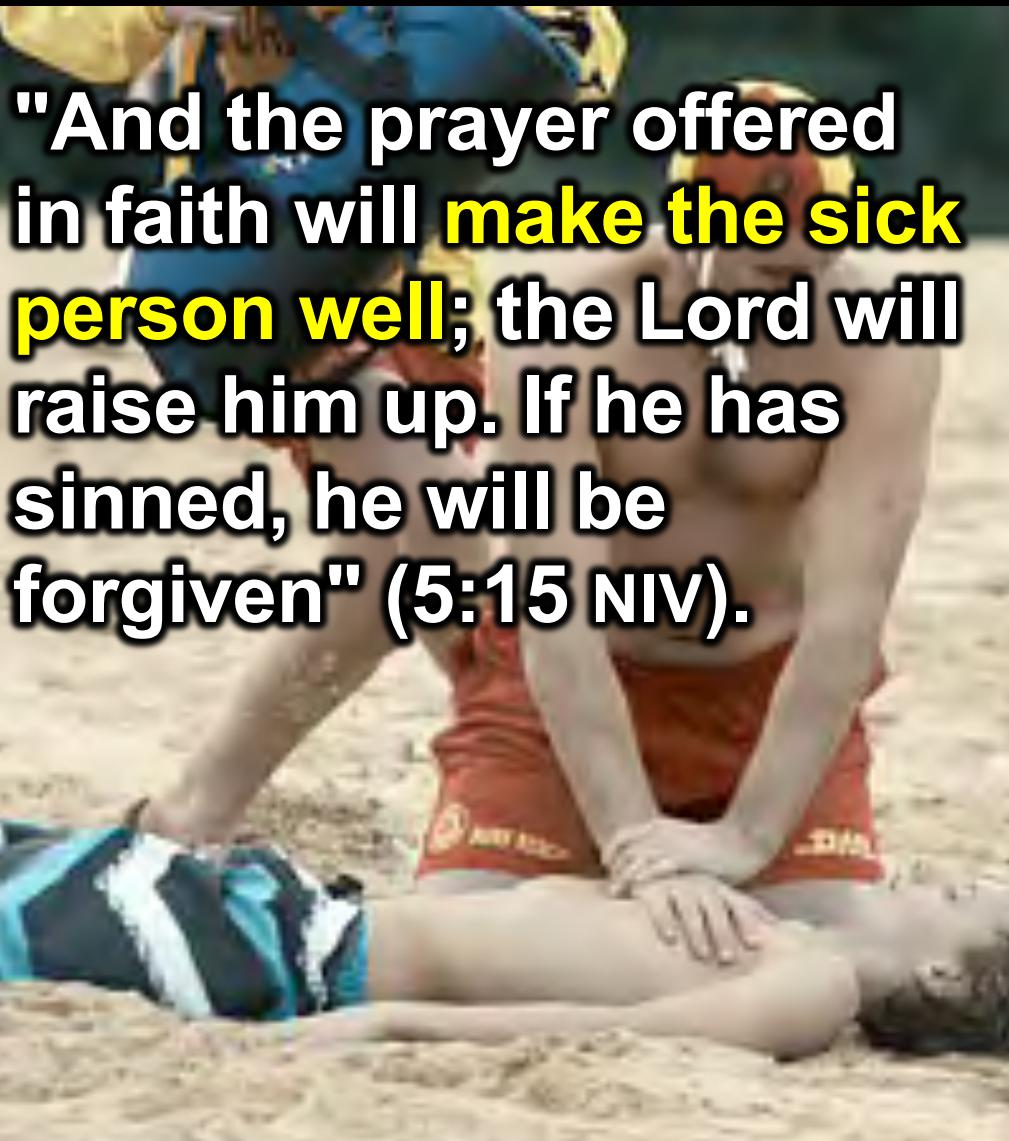


**"There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to **save** and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?"**  
**(4:12 NIV).**

**Death is contrasted with life here, not eternal punishment contrasted with eternal life. Thus, this verse tells us that God is the author of physical life.**

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# Sozo in James

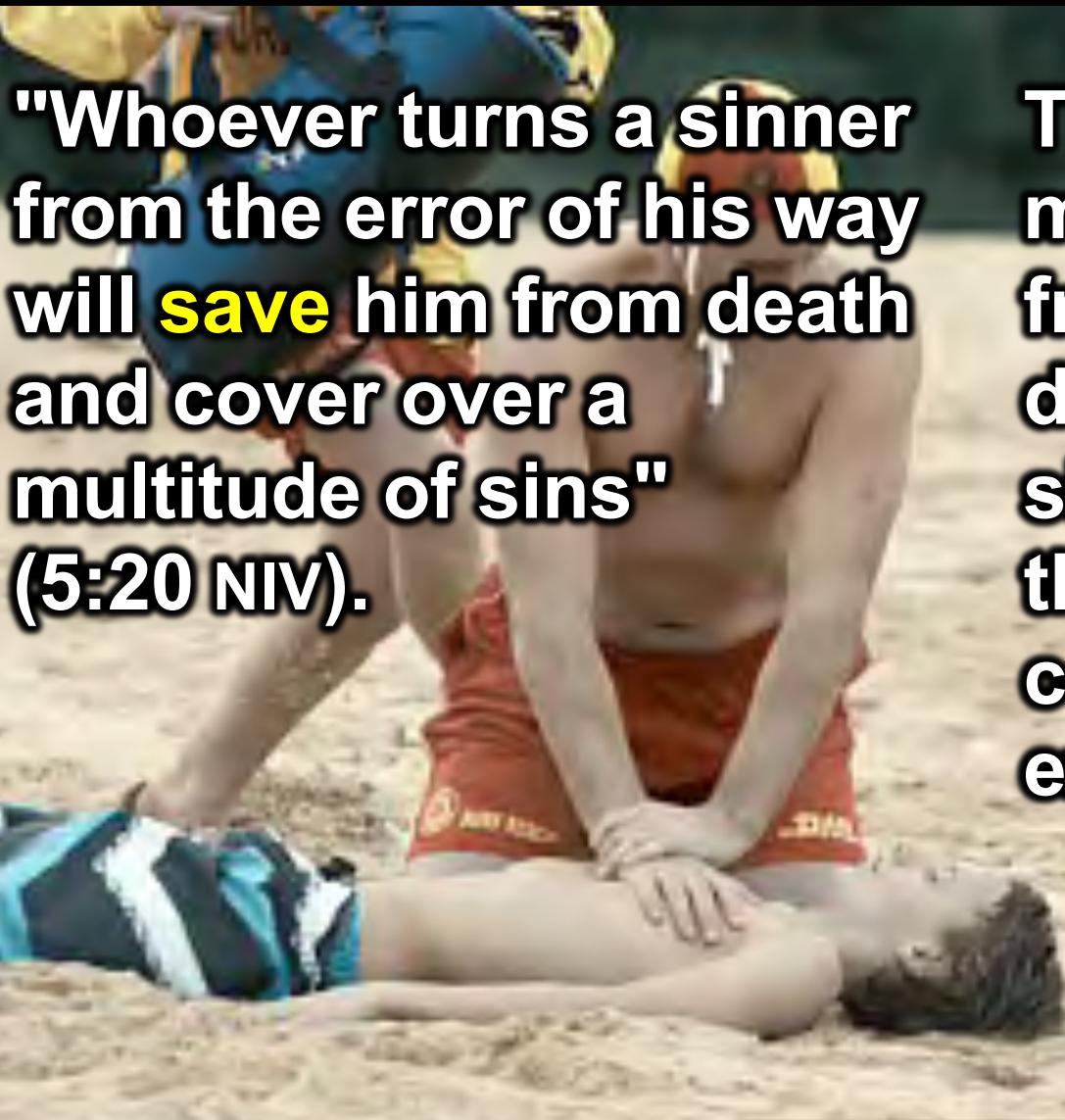


**"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven" (5:15 NIV).**

**Here sozo does not mean one will be saved from a salvation prayer but will have an extended life physically.**

James uses sozo not for salvation but instead “to save the life” from premature death (Zane Hodges, *The Epistle of James* [Irving, TX: Grace Evangelical Society, 1994], 41).

# Sozo in James



**"Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save** him from death and cover over a multitude of sins"**  
**(5:20 NIV).**

**This restoring people means keeping them from premature physical death. This is paired with sins forgiven, showing the spiritual aspect in contrast to their extension of life.**

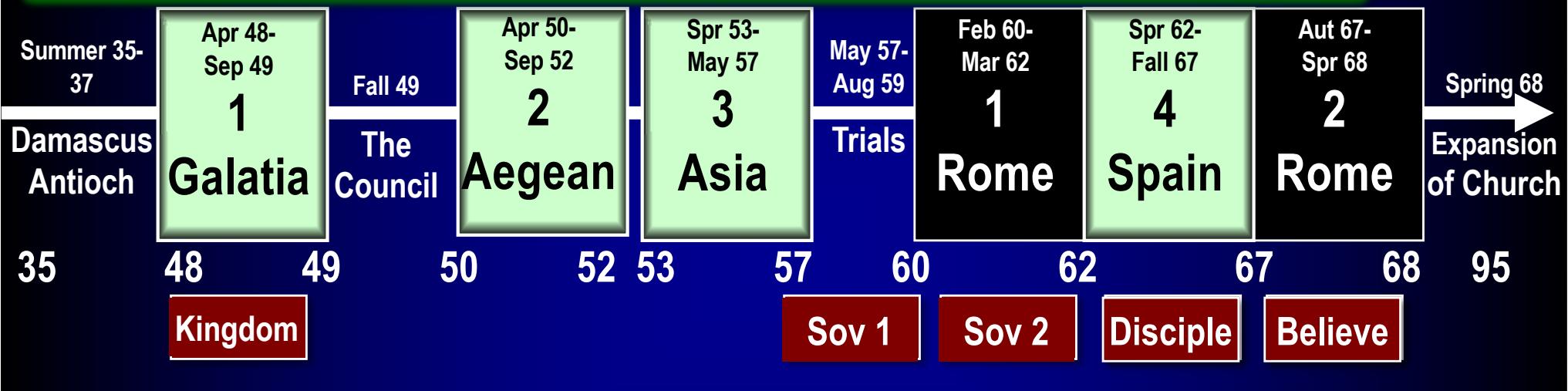
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# What 5 books have we studied so far?

38  
124  
39-41

## What are their key words?

### Put them in chronological order!



Works

Gospels & Acts

1234

Journeys

General Epistles

Rome

Imprisonments

General Epistles + Key Words

# Contrasting Galatians & James

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Galatians</u>	<u>James</u>
Author	Paul	James
Date	A.D. 49	A.D. 44-48
Audience	Gentiles	Jews
Ethnicity		
Justification	Before God (vertical)	Before Man (horizontal)
The time of faith...	before salvation	after salvation
Emphasis is on...	faith	works

# Contrasting Galatians & James

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Galatians</u>	<u>James</u>
Spirit Noted	19 times	0 times
Gospel Noted	12 times	0 times
Opposite Author	James noted	Paul not noted
Author Title	Apostle (1:1)	Servant (1:1)
Reader Problem	Confusion of way of salvation	Confusion of way of discipleship
Use of “saved”	Soteriological	Preserve life

# Contrasting Galatians & James

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Galatians</u>	<u>James</u>
Circumcision	Big issue	Non-issue
Opponents	Judaizers	None
Audience	Disunited	United
Structure	Logical, sequenced	Random, repeated
Geography	Roman Province of Galatia	Roman Empire in its entirety
One of the 12?	No—came later	No—came later

# Which is the Most Accurate?

*Salvation by...*

OT

**Works**

NT

**Faith**

**Faith +  
Works**

**Faith  
Alone**

**Faith  
Alone**

**Faith  
Alone**

**Faith +  
Works**

**Faith +  
Works**

- *Which verses in the Bible support your answer?*

# Salvation & Sanctification

121a

## Man's Role

## God's Response

## Life of Faith

## Restored Fellowship

OT

Faith in God as offered  
Passover Lamb

Exodus

Journey to Canaan

Sacrifices (Sin, Guilt)

Type  
|  
Antitype

Type  
|  
Antitype

Type  
|  
Antitype

Type  
|  
Antitype

NT

Faith in Christ as Lamb of God (1 Cor. 5:7)

Salvation (1 Cor. 10:1-4)  
Positional Sanctification

Growth (1 Cor. 10:5)  
Progressive Sanctification

Confession (1 John 1:9)

*Salvation in All Ages:*

# The Centrality of the Cross

B.C.

Looked

***forward*** to the  
Cross of Christ



A.D.

Look

***back*** at the  
Cross of Christ



# Salvation in the Old Testament

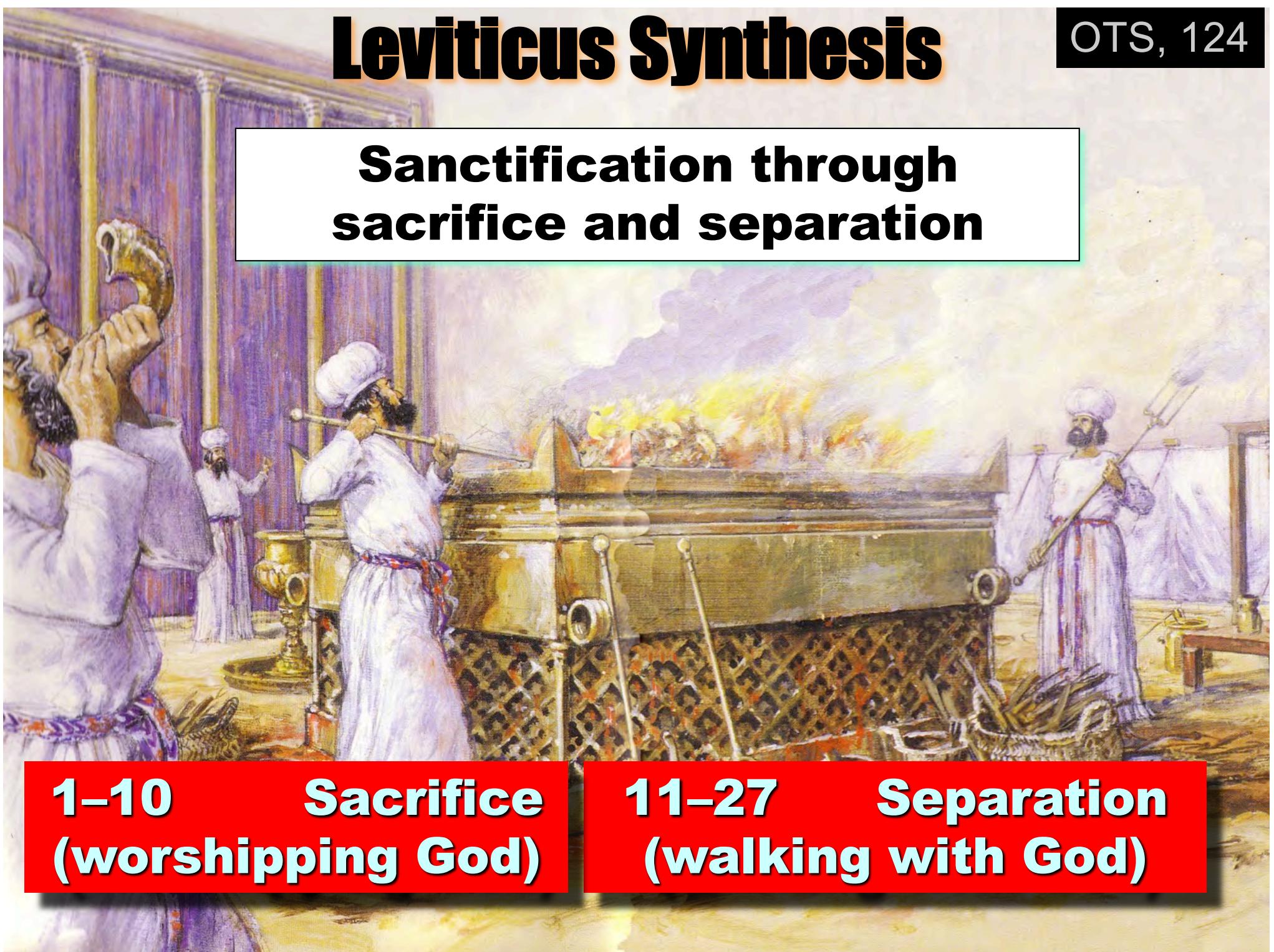
173e

	OT Times (Moses to Christ's Death)	NT Times (Christ's Death to Today)
<b>Basis of Salvation</b>	God's gracious provision of the death of Christ since "it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Lev. 17:11b)	God's gracious provision of the death of Christ ("without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness," Heb. 9:22)
<b>Requirement of Salvation</b>	Faith in the provision that God has revealed—as a gift (Ps. 51:16-17)	Faith in the provision that God has revealed—as a gift (Gal. 2:16)
<b>Ultimate Content of Salvation</b>	Object of faith is God Himself—prophets exhorted repentance, not sacrifices (Jer. 3:12)	Object of faith is God Himself—heroes of faith are cited to exhort faith in God (Heb. 11)
<b>Specific Revealed Content of Salvation</b>	Cumulative content of faith had sacrifices & promises: animals (Gen. 3:21), Abel's sacrifice (Gen. 4:4), Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 15)	New content of faith is the shed blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-21) which removes sin while OT sacrifices merely covered sin
<b>Believer's Expression of Salvation</b>	Obey moral law, offer animal sacrifices, obey Mosaic law (civil and ceremonial aspects)	Obey moral law, observe Lord's Supper and baptism, etc. through the Spirit's enabling (Rom. 8:9)

# Leviticus Synthesis

OTS, 124

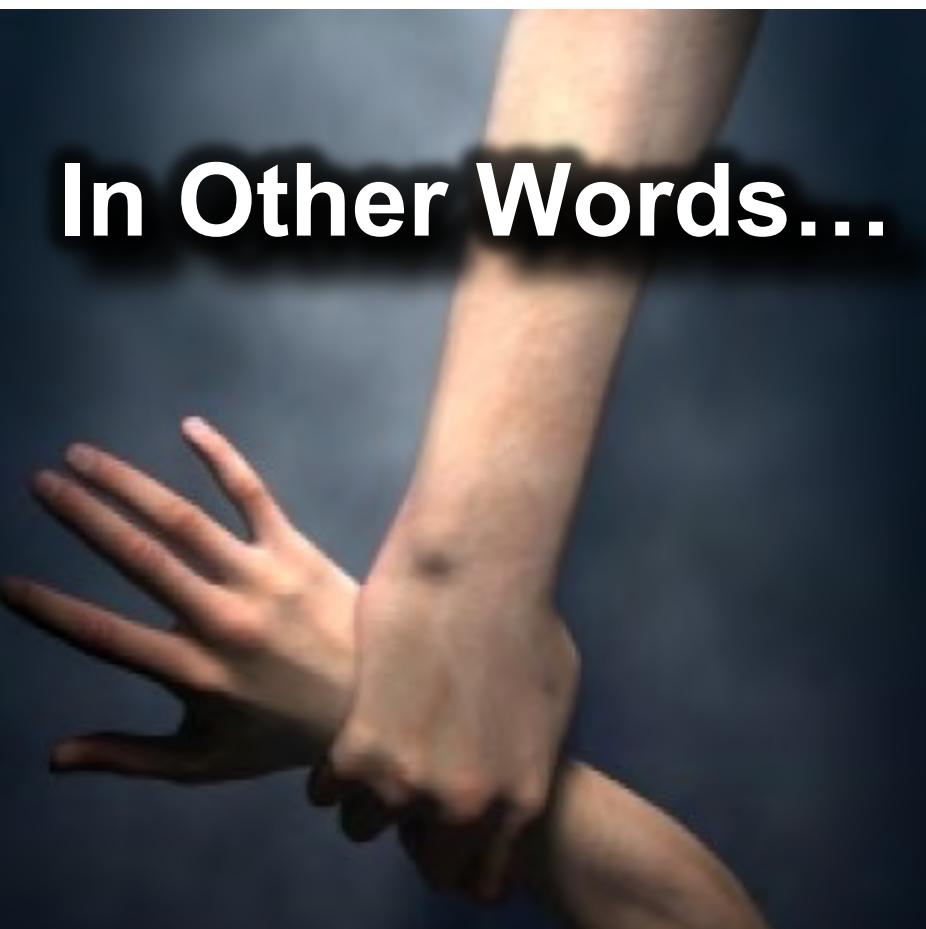
**Sanctification through  
sacrifice and separation**



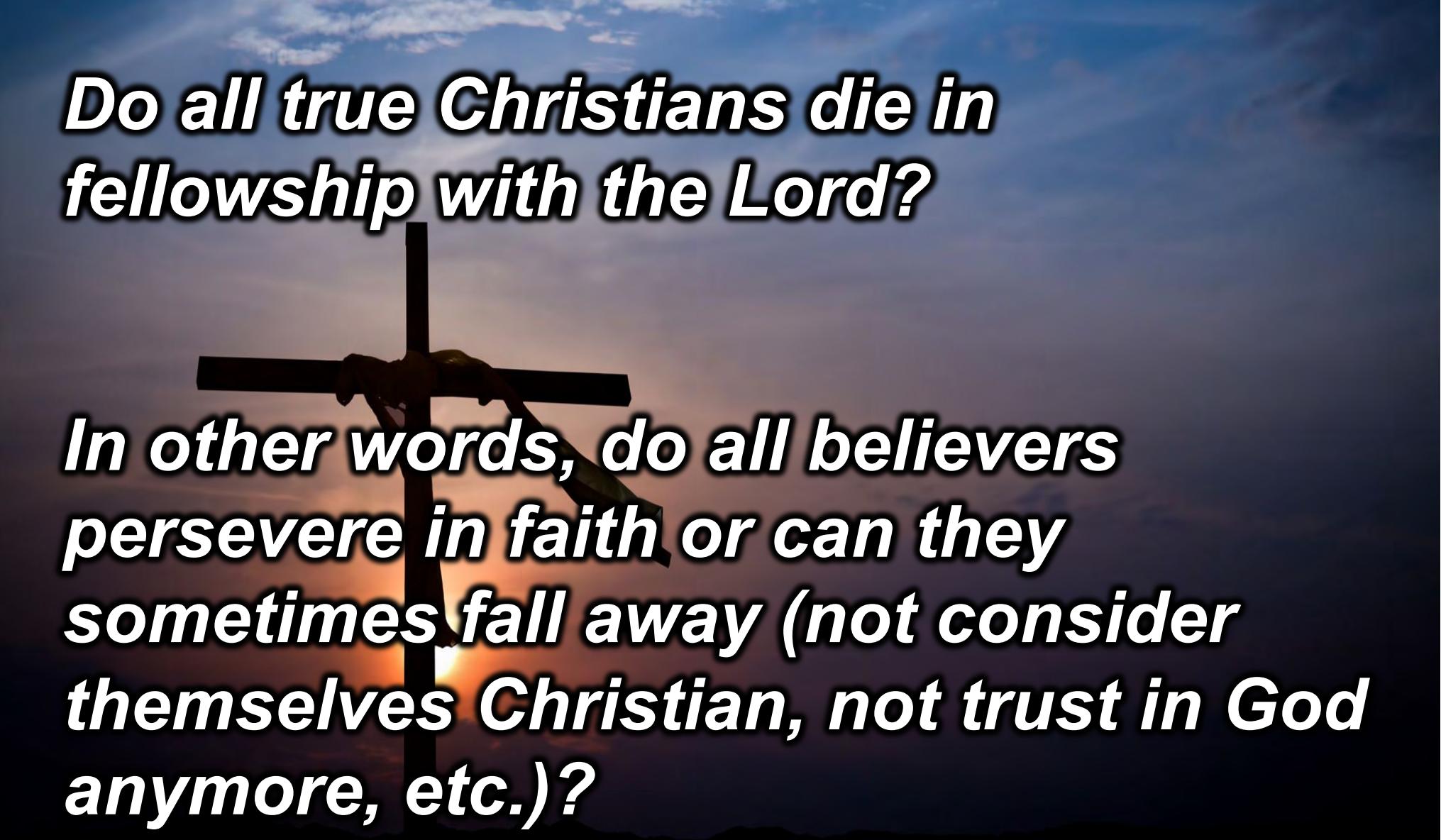
**1-10      Sacrifice  
(worshipping God)**

**11-27      Separation  
(walking with God)**

## In Other Words...



Salvation has  
ALWAYS been  
through faith alone!



***Do all true Christians die in fellowship with the Lord?***

***In other words, do all believers persevere in faith or can they sometimes fall away (not consider themselves Christian, not trust in God anymore, etc.)?***

***What is the key issue here?***

# Perseverance versus Free Grace

**"Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves"**  
**(Matthew 7:15)**

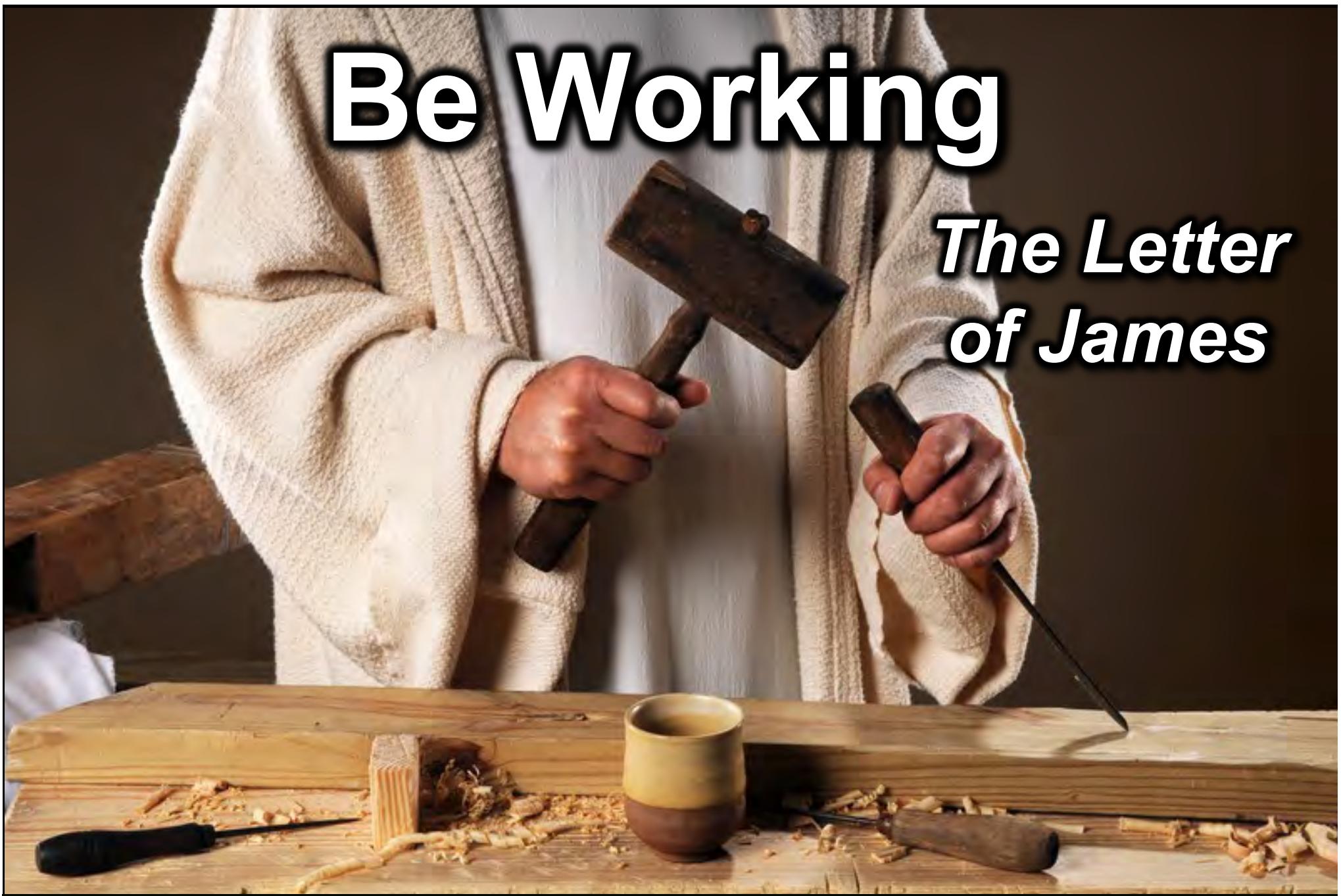
**Promised to Overcomers:**  
**"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown"**  
**(Revelation 3:11 NLT).**

## James' References to the Sermon on the Mount

James	Sermon on the Mount
1:2	Matthew 5:10-12
1:4	5:48
1:5; 5:15	7:7-12
1:9	5:3
1:20	5:22
2:13	5:7; 6:14-15
2:14-16	7:21-23
3:17-18	5:9
4:4	6:24
4:10	5:3-5
4:11	7:1-2
5:2	6:19
5:10	5:12
5:12	5:33-37

# Be Working

*The Letter  
of James*



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Faith is internal and unseen.

Or is it?

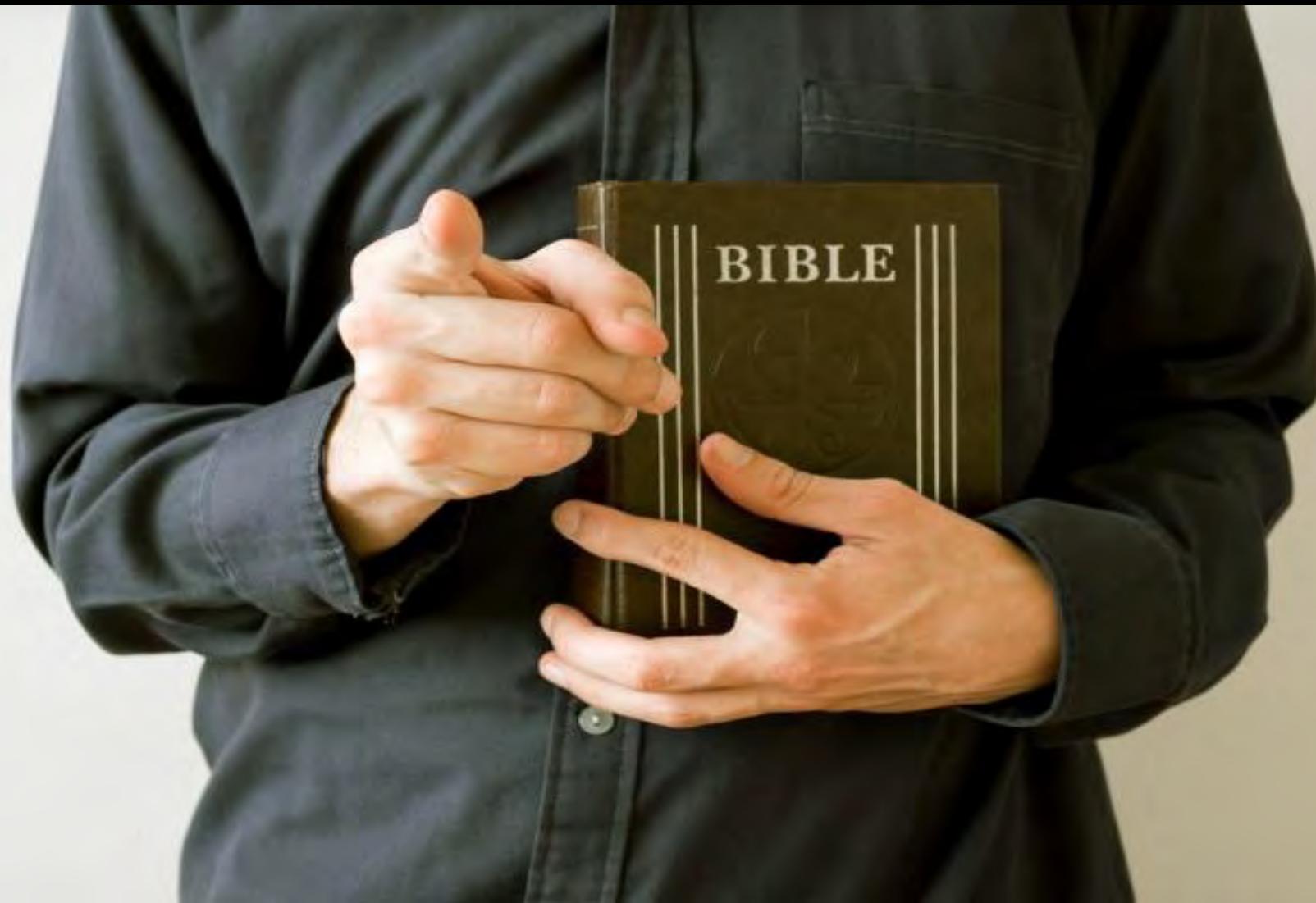


# How will others know you are a Christian?



James

# How will others know you are a Christian?



**What are the  
characteristics of  
faith?**

# Background

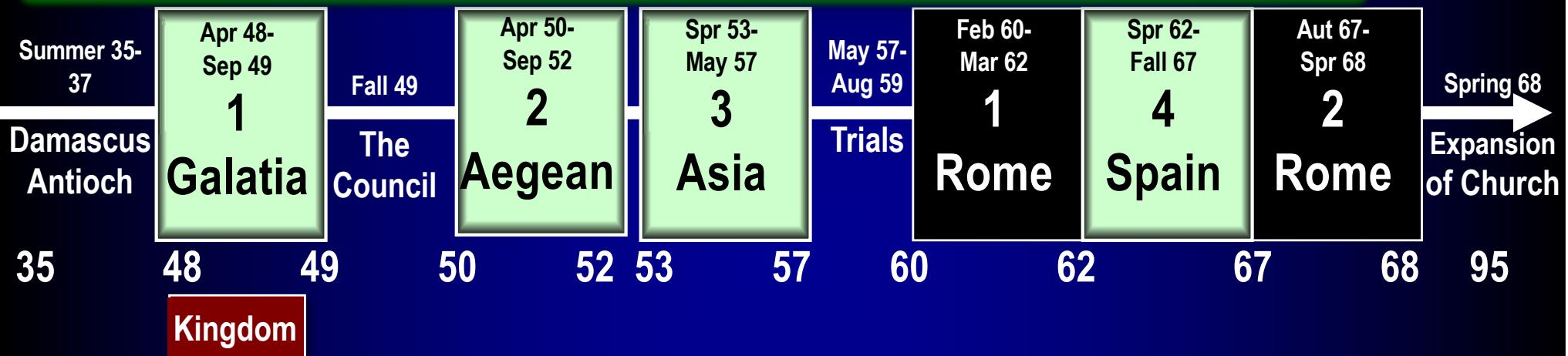
**Early Jewish believers were not living out their faith.**

# What books have we studied so far?

38  
124  
39-41

## What are their key words?

### Put them in chronological order!



Works

Gospels & Acts

1234

Journeys

General Epistles

Rome

Imprisonments

General Epistles + Key Words

The Title

*EPISTLE OF*  
JAMES **BONDservant**  
*of Christ Jesus*

# WORKS

- 1 **W**orking patience through trials
- 2 **O**bedience that accompanies faith
- 3 **R**estraining the unbridled tongue
- 4 **K**eeping calm in conflict
- 5 **S**uffering and complaints





# Authorship

James the son of Zebedee

Died before  
letter was  
written





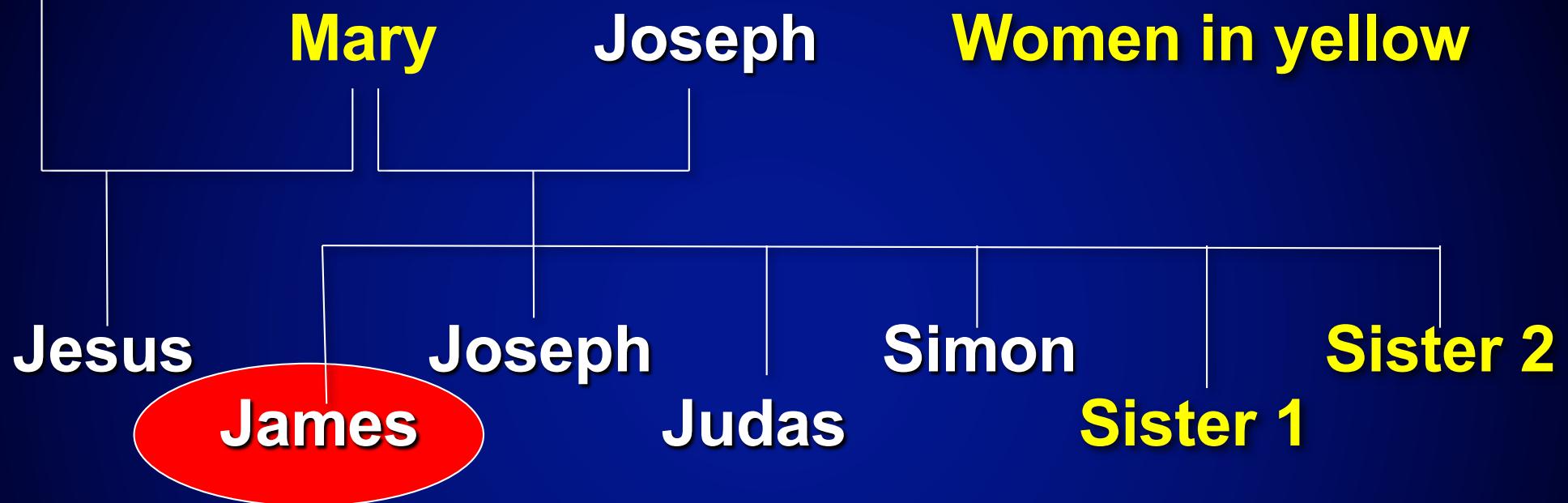
# Authorship

James the son of Alphaeus

James the father of Thaddeaus

# Jesus' Family Persecuted Him

Holy  
Spirit

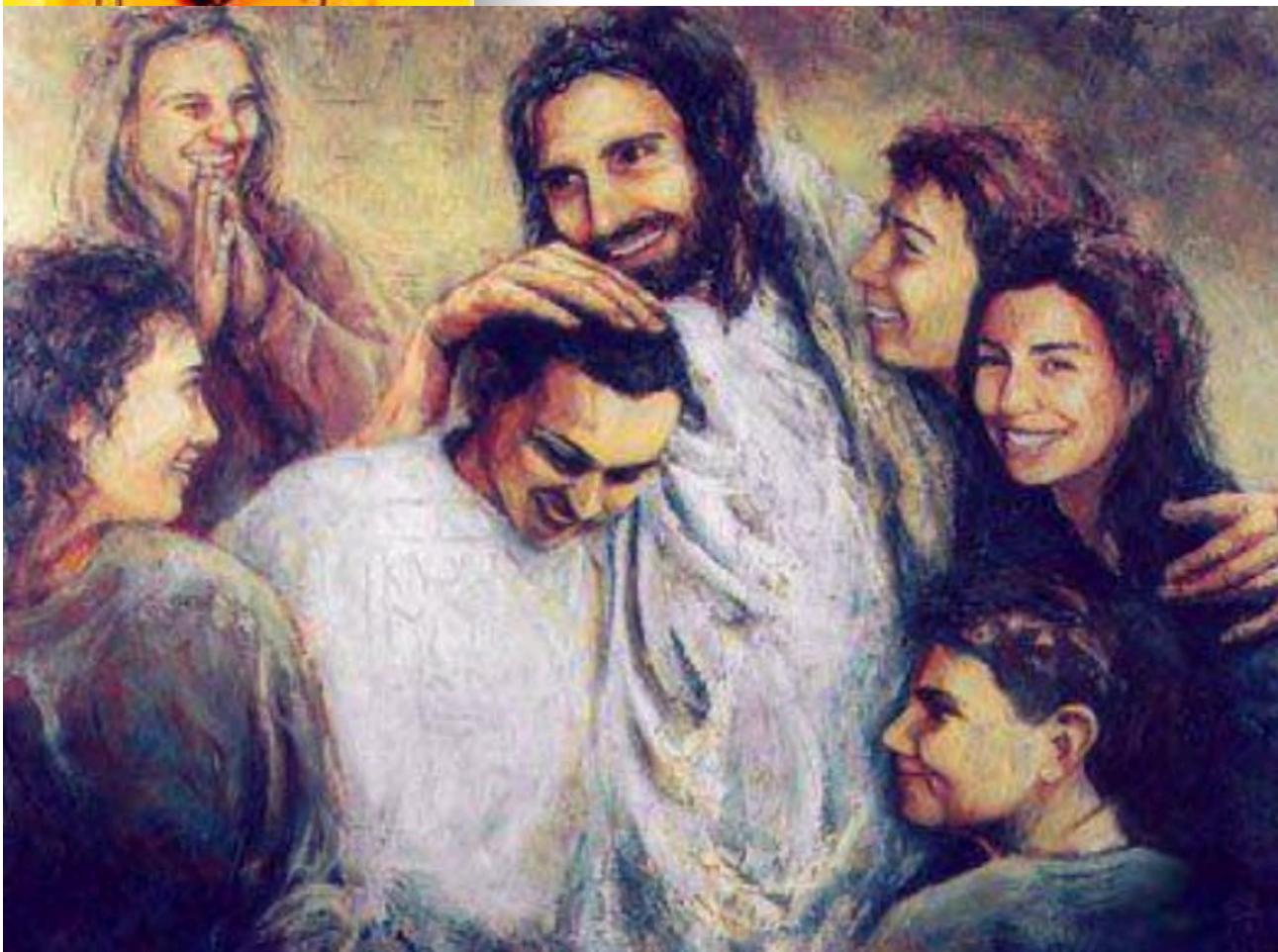


"Then they scoffed, 'He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And **his sisters** live right here among us.' They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him" (Mark 6:3 NLT).

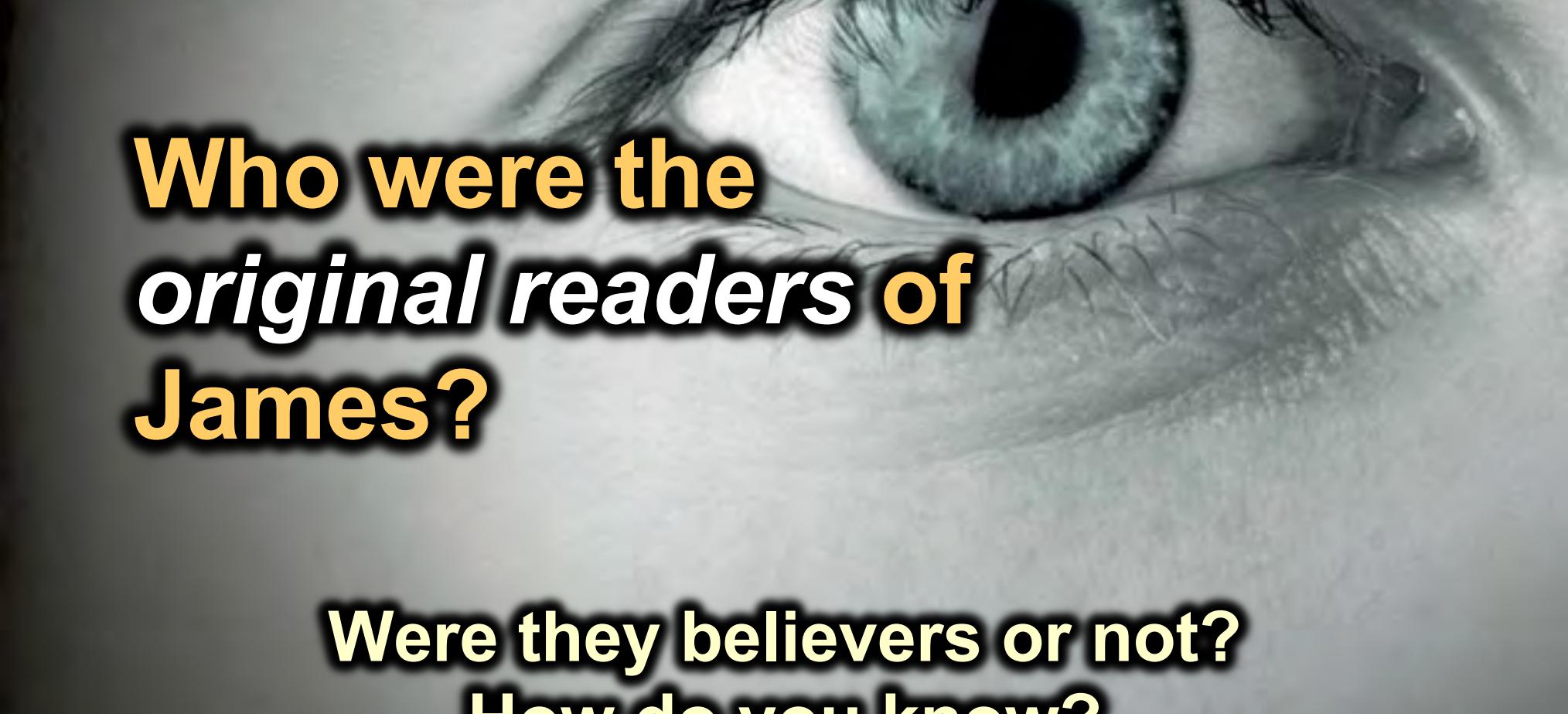


# Authorship

## James the brother of Jesus



**What  
would it  
have been  
like to  
grow up  
with a  
perfect  
older  
brother?**

A close-up, grayscale photograph of a human eye, focusing on the iris and pupil. The eye is looking directly at the viewer. The skin around the eye is visible, showing some texture and a few fine hairs.

**Who were the  
*original readers* of  
James?**

**Were they believers or not?  
How do you know?**

## JEWISH DIASPORA AT PENTECOST

### MAP 85

## See Acts 2:9-11

© 1985 The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago



# Why did James write?

1. To lead unbelievers to Christ?
2. To give “tests of faith” so people could evaluate if they were genuine believers?
3. To exhort true Christians to live up to the faith they professed?

What are the  
characteristics of  
faith?

James

## Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Trials	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favoritism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Ultimately Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Be Wise	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation

*Jerusalem*

*AD 44-47*

**James**

# James 1

## Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Trials	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favoritism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Ultimately Triumphs
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*Jerusalem*

*AD 44-47*

**James**

# *Applying the Epistle of James*

**What specific works noted in James do you consistently do that show you are a Christian?**



# *Trials, Temptation and Sin* (James 1:2-18)

# When Troubles Won't Go Away

*James 1:2-18*

Dr. Rick Griffith, Crossroads International Church Singapore  
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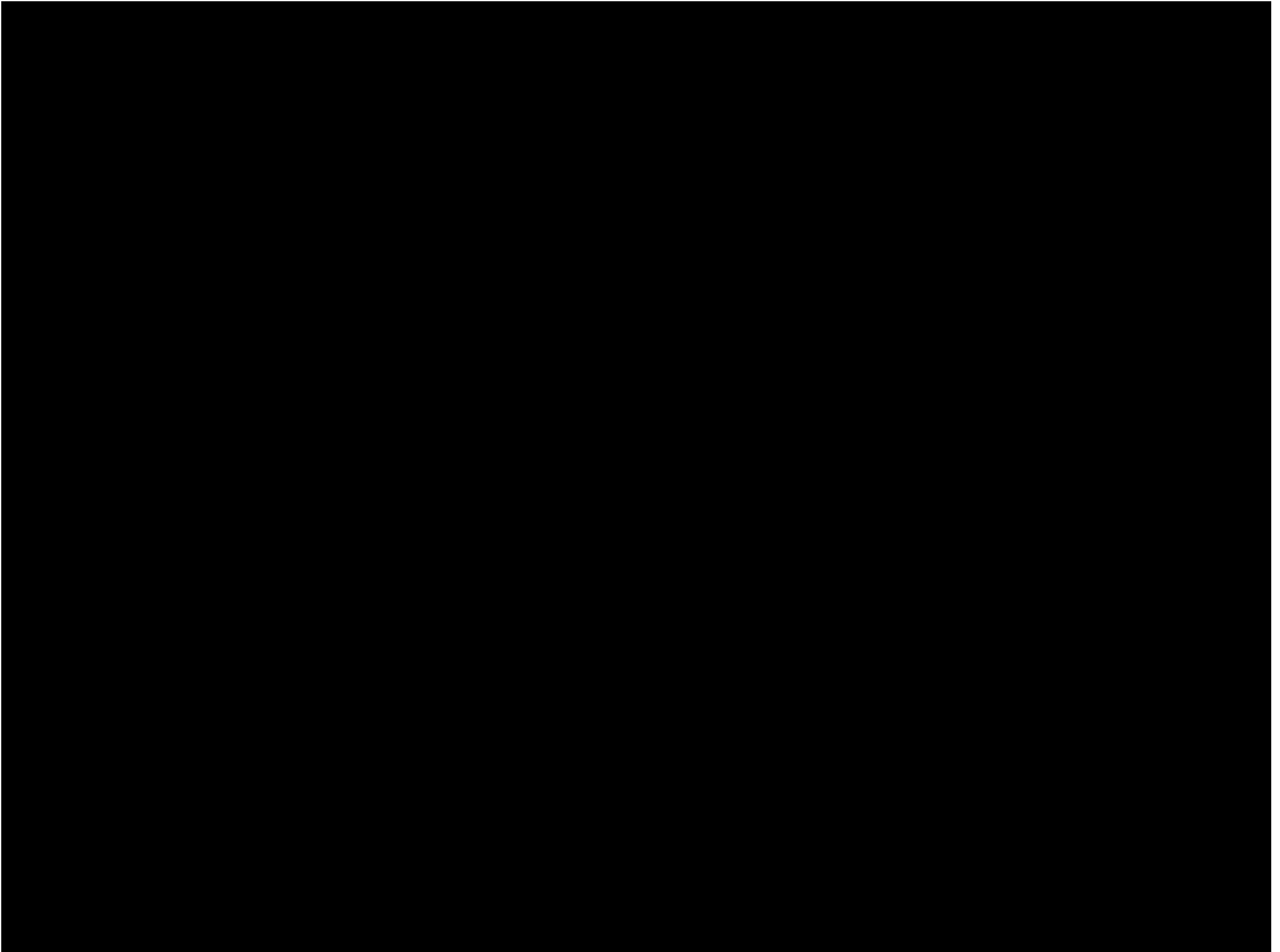
# El Tablazo - 30 km NW of Bogota, Colombia, South America



10500 feet high

# El Tablazo





# El Tablazo



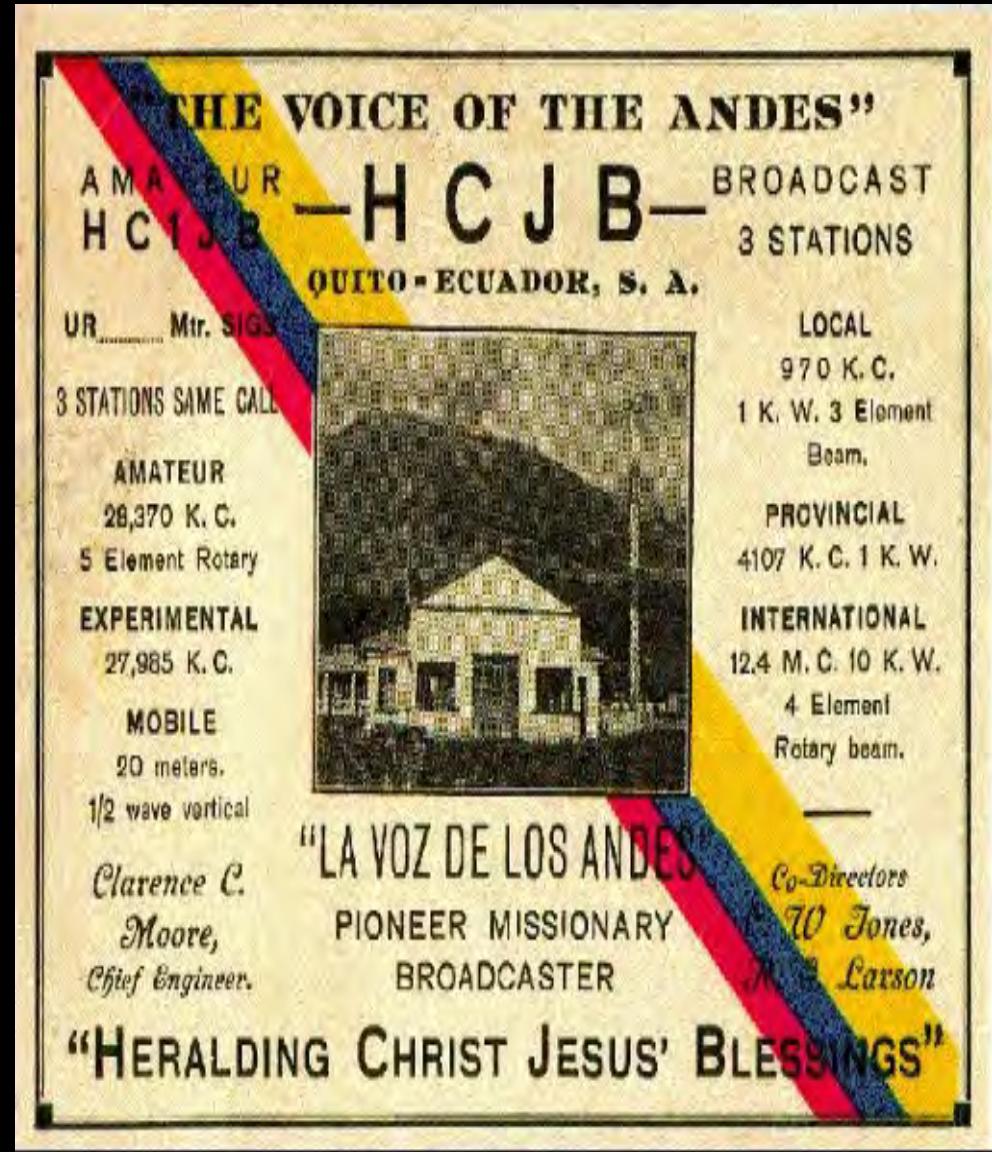
A black and white photograph of an open book. The left page is blank, while the right page contains the word "Why?" written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. The book is set against a dark, neutral background.

Why?

# Mr. Glen Chambers

February 15, 1947

From New York  
To Ecuador



# El Tablazo



A black and white photograph of an open book. The left page is blank, while the right page contains the word "Why?" written in a large, bold, black font. The book is set against a dark, neutral background.

Why?

**My Trials.**

**Your Trials.**

shin

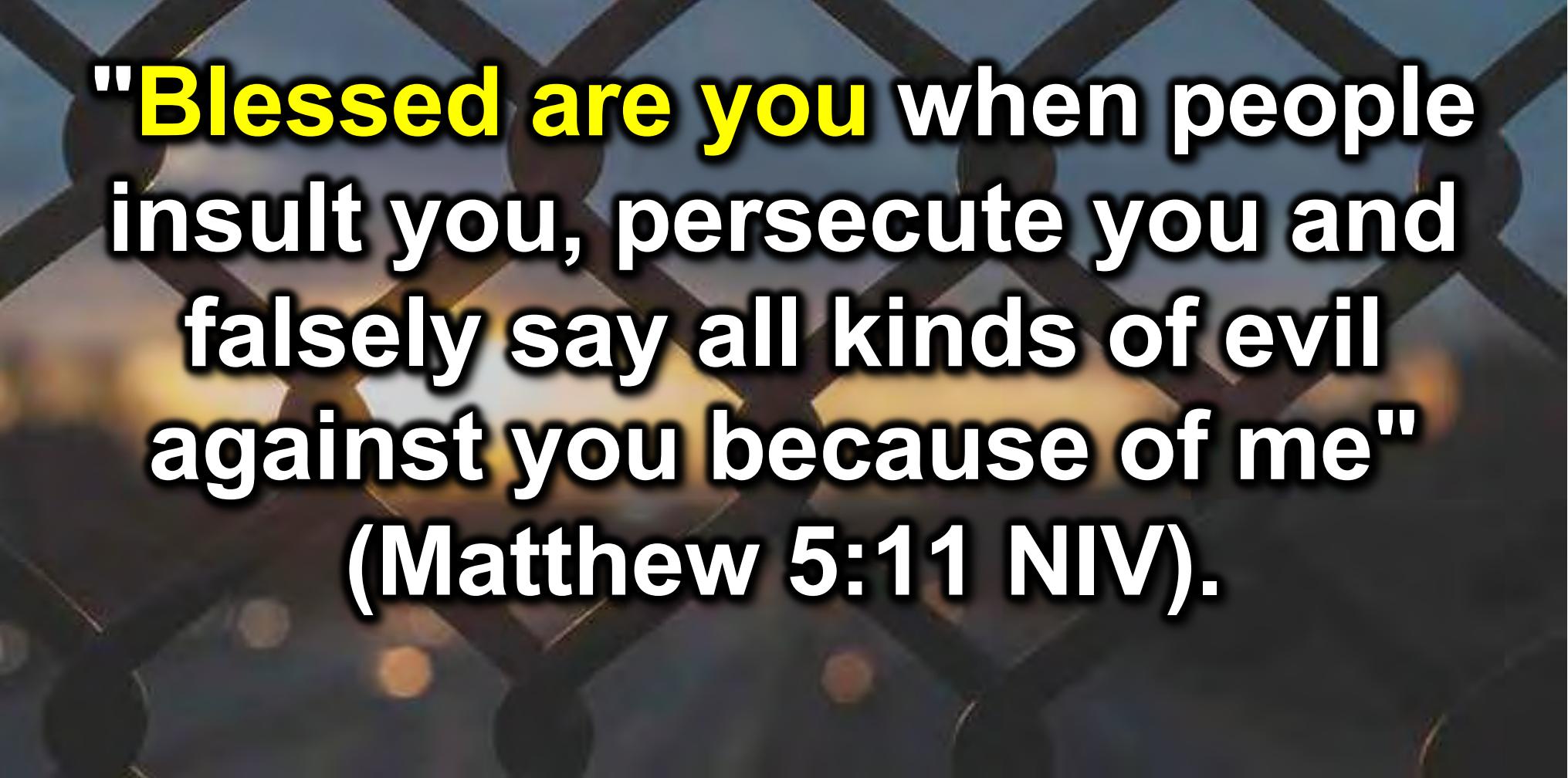
ʃɪn/

*noun*

1. a device for finding furniture in the dark.

**Always be full of joy in the Lord.  
I say it again—rejoice!**

**Philippians 4:4 NLT**



**"Blessed are you when people  
insult you, persecute you and  
falsely say all kinds of evil  
against you because of me"  
(Matthew 5:11 NIV).**

# *How can you handle trials with joy?*

5 ways



I. Realize that God's **purpose** is to build Christ in you (James 1:2-4).



*Faith accepts trials with joy because it believes that God allows testing to develop perseverance and maturity (2-4).*

# *What is the path from trials to joy?*



James 1:2-4

**"Dear brothers and sisters,  
when troubles come your  
way, consider it an  
opportunity for great joy"**  
**(James 1:2 NLT).**





“Consider it all joy,  
my brethren,  
when you encounter  
various trials;  
knowing that the  
testing of your faith  
produces endurance.  
And let endurance  
have its perfect  
result,  
so that you may be  
perfect and  
complete, lacking in  
nothing.”

JAMES 1:2-4

# THE REALITY OF TRIALS

James 1:2

"... when you encounter various trials"

1. Trials (*peirasmos*) → Things external to us
2. Temptations to evil → From within (1:13-14)

Definition of suffering (Elizabeth Elliott):

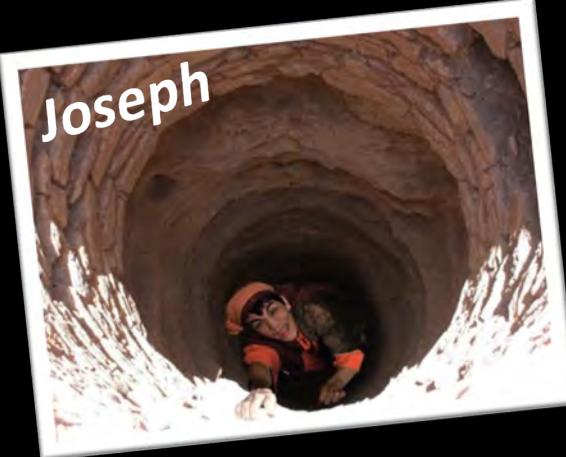
- ☞ Having what you don't want
- ☞ Wanting what you don't have



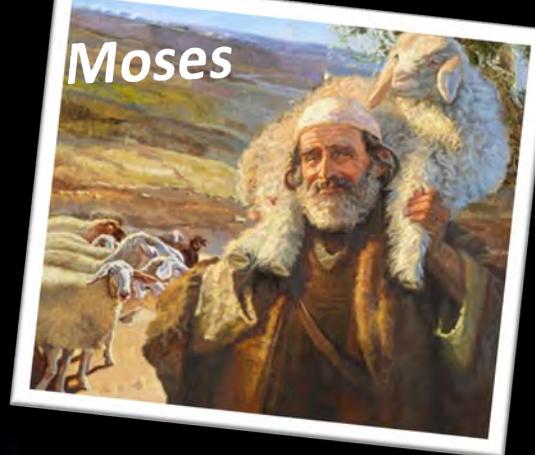
Job



Joseph



Moses



David



Daniel



Matt. 5:10-12

John 15:20

Acts 14:22

2 Tim. 3:12

Jeremiah



## JEWISH DIASPORA AT PENTECOST

### MAP 85

## See Acts 2:9-11

© 1985 The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago



# THE WAY TO THINK ABOUT TRIALS

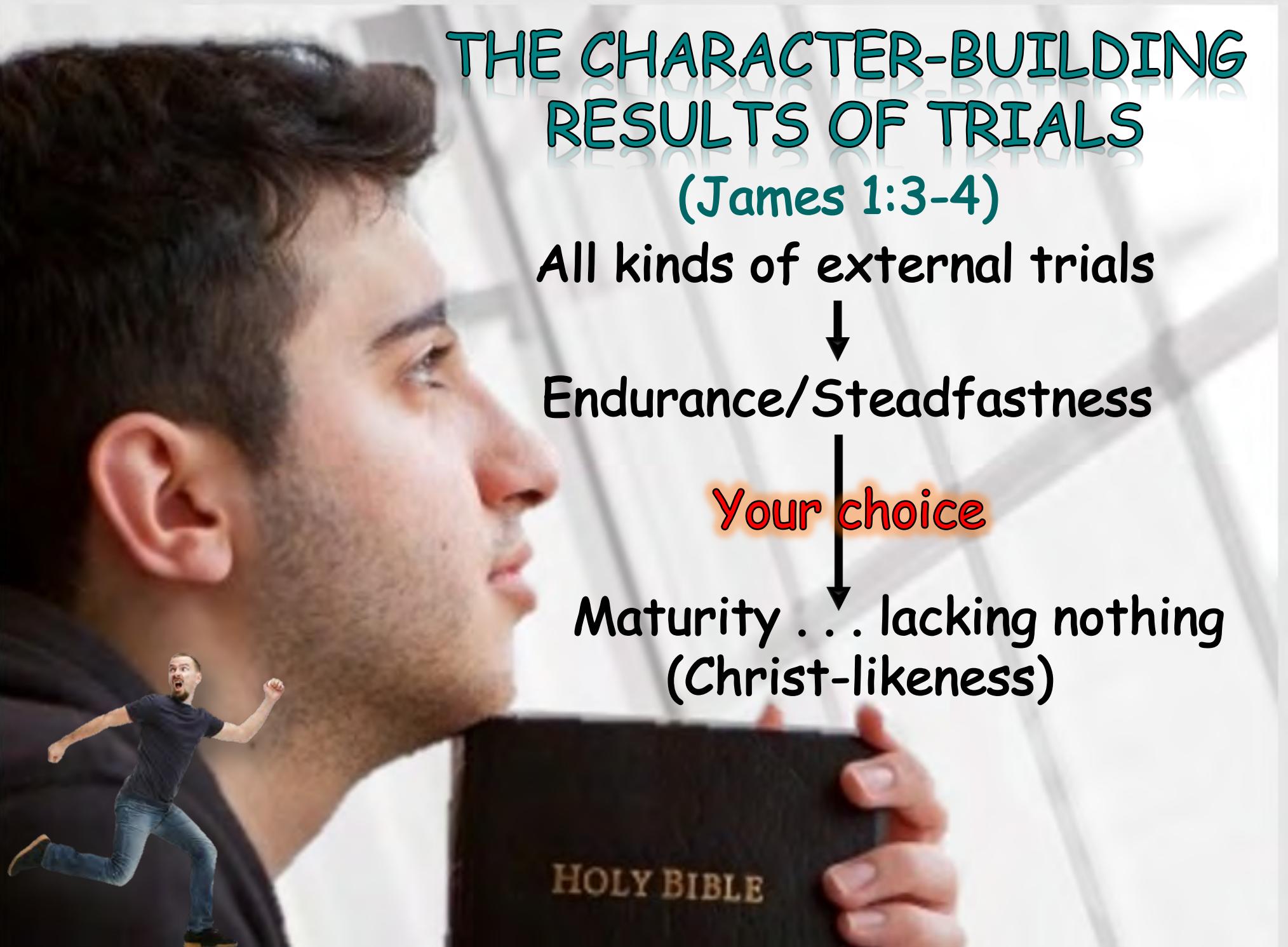
**"Consider it all joy, my brethren"**

- ♦ The people James addresses
  - ✓ Brethren = Believers (Mark 3:35)
  - ✓ James identifies with them/us 15 times
- ♦ The proper mindset
  - ✓ To "reckon" or "think" it to be so
  - ✓ This is a choice: a command to obey
- ♦ The proper attitude
  - ✓ All (pure) joy (the trial itself is not joyous)
  - ✓ Joy = settled contentment, regardless of your circumstances; a fruit of the Spirit

# THE PURPOSE OF OUR TRIALS

(James 1:3)

- ◆ You already have some important knowledge (gained from personal experience)
- ◆ Trials are meant to test your faith  
The testing (*dokimion*) is meant to prove the genuineness of your faith
- ◆ The result of this testing works to produce endurance (steadfastness)



# THE CHARACTER-BUILDING RESULTS OF TRIALS

(James 1:3-4)

All kinds of external trials



Endurance/Steadfastness

Your choice

↓  
Maturity . . . lacking nothing  
(Christ-likeness)

## James 1:2-4

Trials



Endurance



Maturity



Reward  
(1:12)

AD 44



## Romans 5:3-4

Tribulation



Perseverance

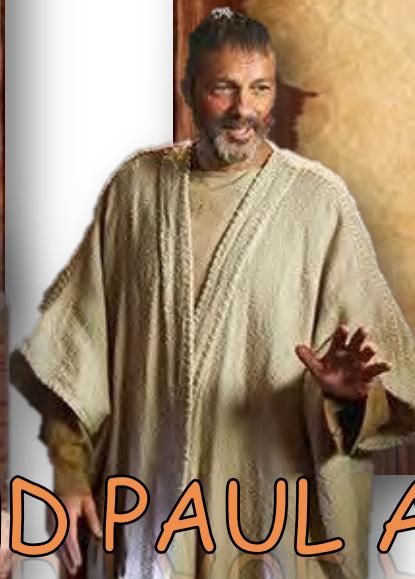


Proven character



Hope  
(confidence)

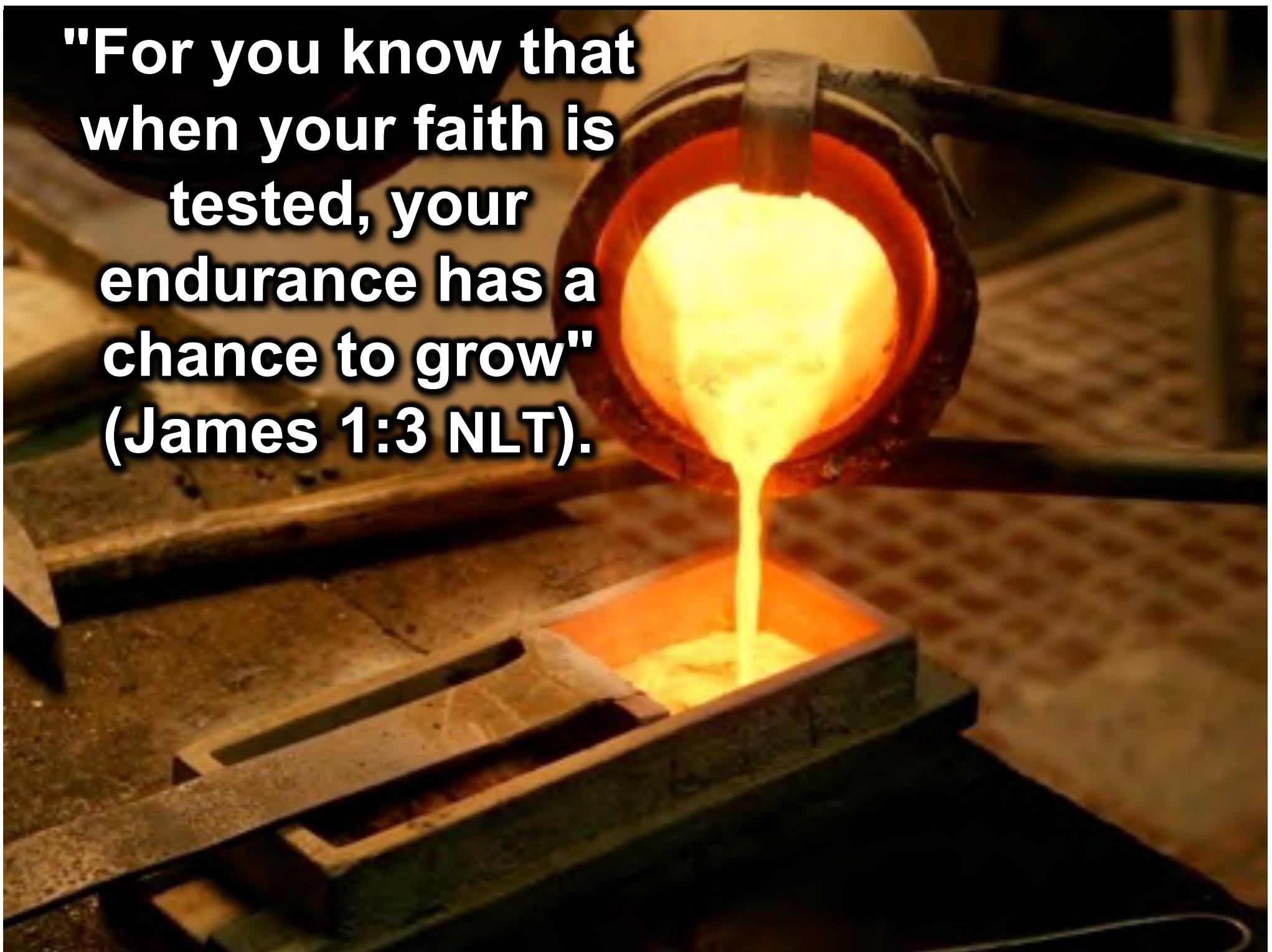
AD 57



**JAMES AND PAUL AGREE**



**"For you know that  
when your faith is  
tested, your  
endurance has a  
chance to grow"  
(James 1:3 NLT).**



Job 23:10

“But He knows the  
way that I take;  
When He has  
tested me,  
I shall come  
forth as gold.”



Job 23:10

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A glowing gold ingot in a furnace with the text "Self-Dependence" overlaid.

Self-  
Dependence

Job 23:10

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way that I take;  
When He has  
tested me,  
I shall come  
forth as gold.”



Job 23:10

“But He knows the  
way that I take;  
When He has  
tested me,  
I shall come  
forth as gold.”



1 Peter  
1:6-7

**"So let it grow, for  
when your endurance  
is fully developed,  
you will be perfect  
and complete,  
needing nothing"  
(James 1:4 NLT).**



**"Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete" (James 1:2-4 TLB).**



# Which trait?



# Which trait?

*but the fruit of the spirit is*

LOVE   JOY  
**PEACE**  
PATIENCE  
KINDNESS  
GOODNESS  
FAITHFULNESS  
GENTLENESS  
SELF-CONTROL

I. Realize that God's **purpose** is to build Christ in you (James 1:2-4).



1) Choose the right attitude toward the trials  
God allows to come your way

✓ Genesis 45:5,7-8; 50:20

✓ Jeremiah 9:23-24

✓ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10



PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TODAY

## 2) Hang on to God's promises through trials!

- ✓ Isaiah 43:2-3a
- ✓ Rom. 8:18
- ✓ 1 Cor. 10:13
- ✓ 2 Cor. 1:4
- ✓ Rom. 8:35
- ✓ 1 Pet. 5:14,19



**PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TODAY**

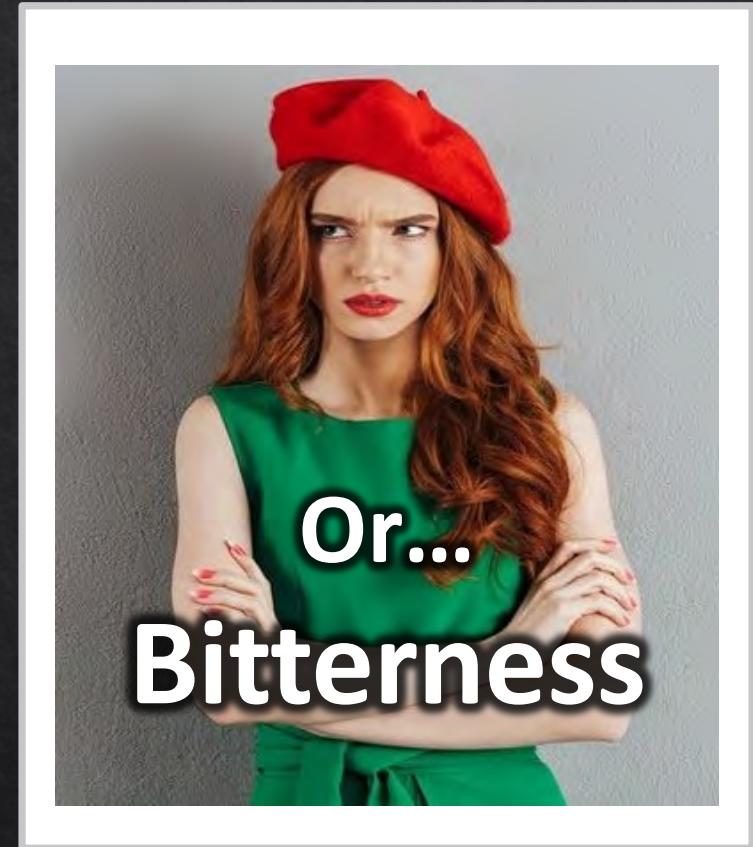
## II. Pray for wisdom in faith (James 1:5-8).



**"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. <sup>6</sup>But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup>Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do" (James 1:5-8 NLT).**



# Trials and Suffering can lead to



So how can we “let trials mature us”?

# James 1:5-12

Main Idea:

**Suffering will mature us if we trust in  
God's wisdom through it,  
rather than our own!**

# Wisdom in Trials

- 1. What is wisdom?
- 2. How do we get wisdom?
- 3. What does wisdom look like in action?

# How do we get Wisdom?

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in

1. Acknowledge that you for the one who doubts  
need wisdom...

~~1. Acknowledge that you for the one who doubts  
need wisdom...~~, driven and tossed by the  
wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person ought not to expect that he  
will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> being a  
double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

# Acknowledge that you need Wisdom

<sup>5</sup> And if, as is the case, anyone of you is deficient in wisdom, let him keep on presenting his request in the presence of the giving God who gives to all with simplicity and without reserve, and who does not reproach, and it shall be given him.

Wuest Translation

# Acknowledge that you need Wisdom

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart

And do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,

And He will make your paths straight.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes...

Proverbs 3:5-7

# How do we get Wisdom?

<sup>5</sup> And if, as is the case, anyone of you is deficient in wisdom, let him keep on presenting his request in the presence of the giving God who gives to all with simplicity and

2. Ask (and keep asking) for wisdom... h,

Wuest Translation

# How do we get Wisdom?

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

# How do we get Wisdom?

**“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you... If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”**

**Matthew 7:7,11**

# So how do we ask for this Wisdom?

## 3. Ask in faith...

From, let him ask of God,  
and without reproach,  
and it will be given to him.<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in  
faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts  
is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the  
wind.<sup>7</sup> For that person ought not to expect that he  
will receive anything from the Lord,<sup>8</sup> being a  
double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

# Asking in Faith

Faith in the wisdom and character of God:

- Faith in **God's willingness** to give wisdom!
- Faith in **God's way** of dealing with my suffering – He knows what he's doing!
- Faith in **God's motives** in dealing with my suffering – He cares deeply about me!

# So how do we ask for this Wisdom?

## 4. Ask without doubting...

...om, let him ask of God,  
and without reproach,  
and it will be given to him.<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in  
faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts  
is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the  
wind.<sup>7</sup> For that person ought not to expect that he  
will receive anything from the Lord,<sup>8</sup> being a  
double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

# So how do we ask for this Wisdom?

# Who is the doubter?

om, let him ask of God,  
and without reproach,

and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

# Who is the Doubter?

**Double-Minded** – This person...

- Is “two-souled” – Has their mind or soul divided between God and the world
- Is chasing happiness and fulfillment in this life
- Doubts that God knows best
- Faith and doubt are connected with **loyalty!**

# Doubt vs. Faith

**The doubter is someone of divided loyalty – not someone honestly struggling to believe in God's goodness.**

**The person of faith remains loyal to God – continuing to believe in his goodness, wisdom and love no matter what!**

## A Sample “Wisdom Prayer”

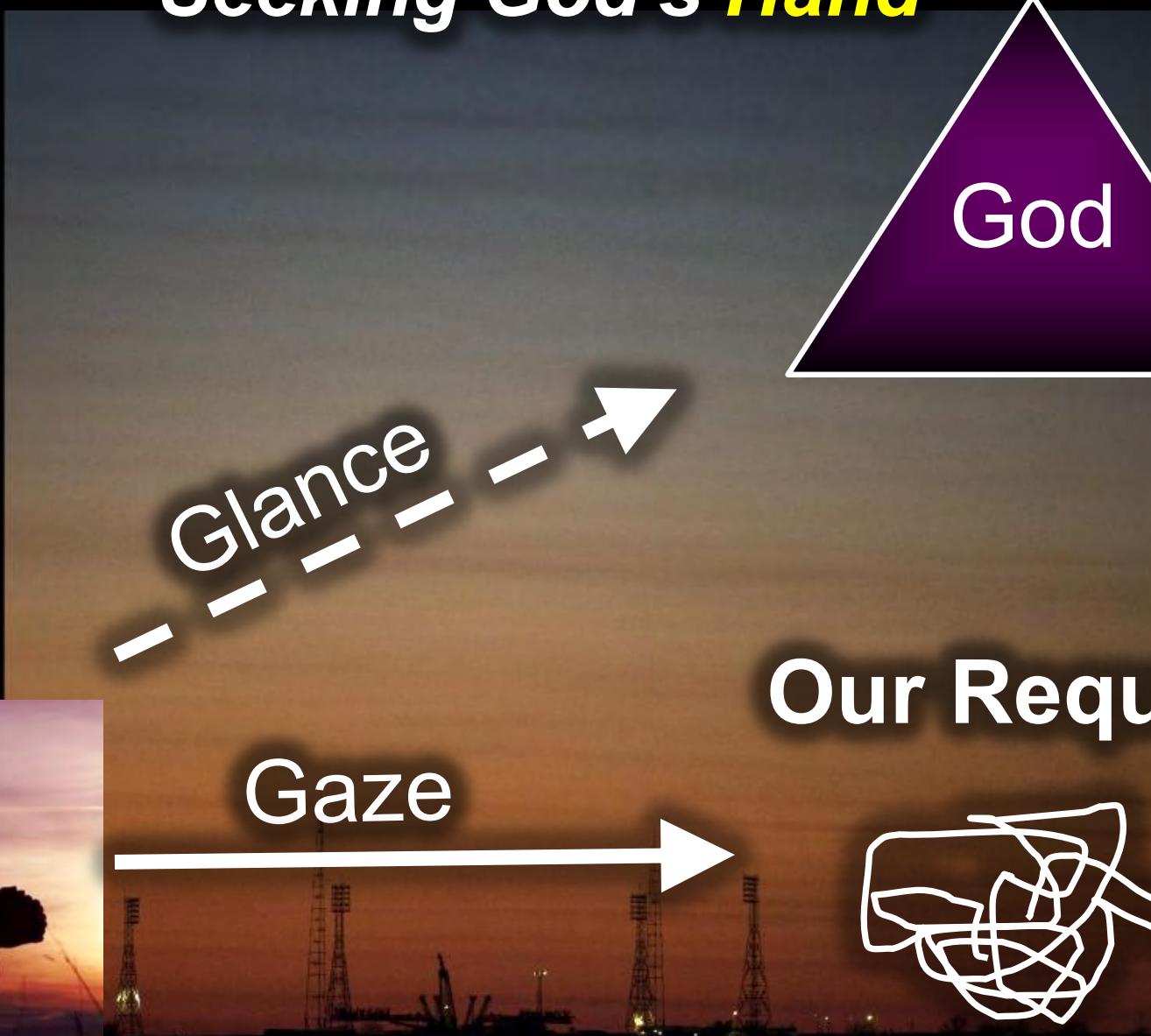
God, I

- Acknowledge my need for wisdom in this trial
- Trust that you know what you’re doing
- Ask for wisdom to know you in this trial and to see it as you see it
- I will remain loyal to you – to believe in your goodness, infinite wisdom and love, no matter how dark things get!

# The Gaze-Glance Principle

## *Seeking God's **Hand***

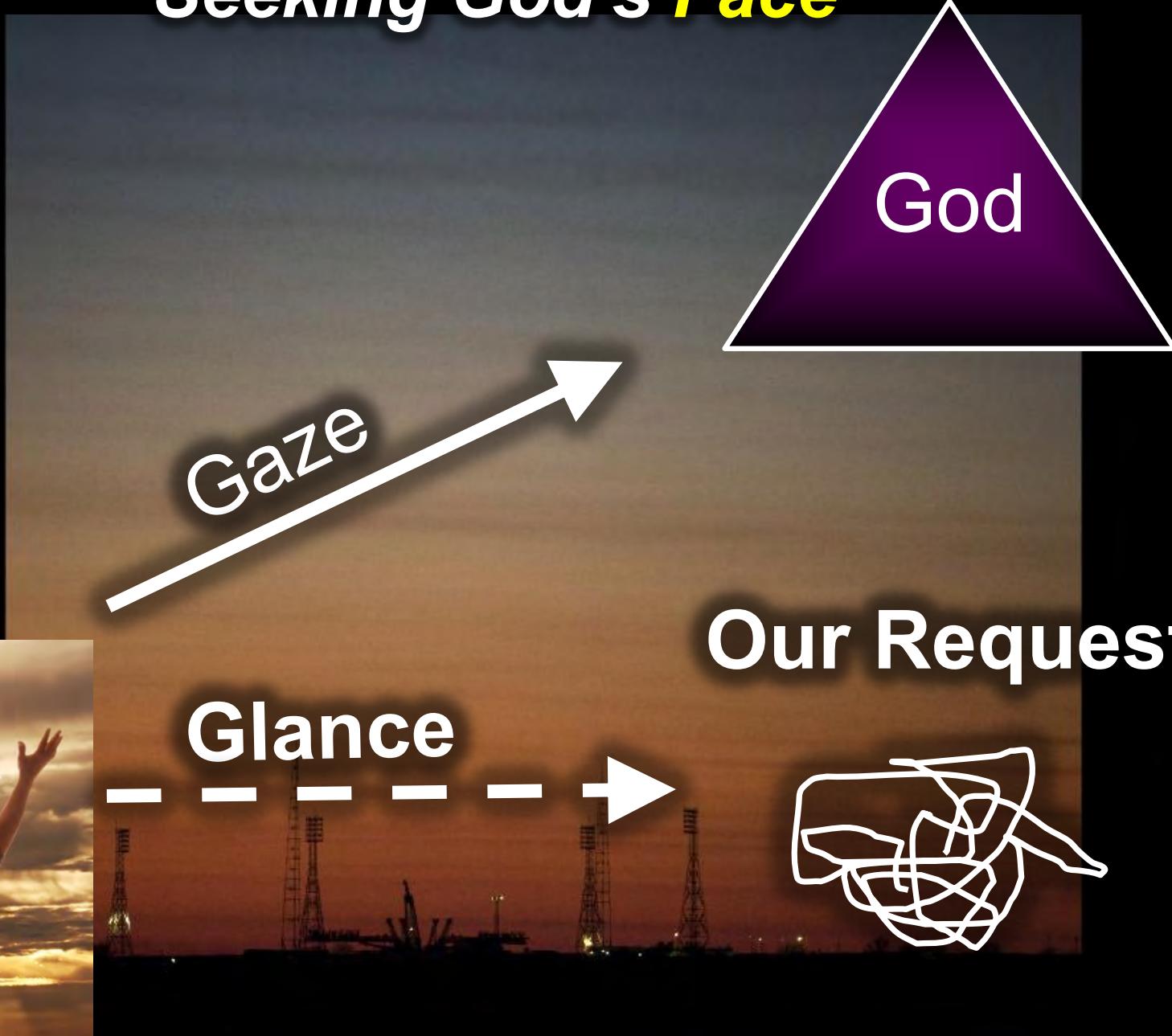
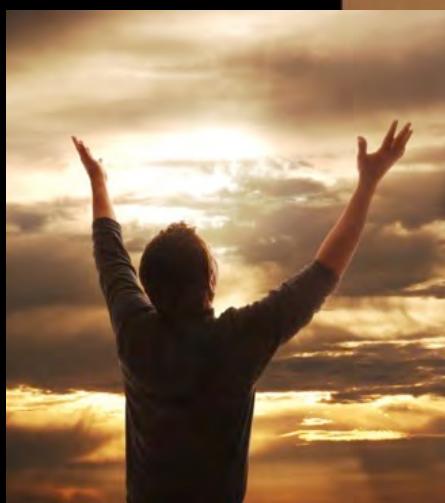
Elton & Shirley  
Gillam, *The  
Restoration of  
Biblical Prayer*  
(Greely, CO:  
Chambers  
College Press,  
2009), 33



# The Gaze-Glance Principle

## *Seeking God's Face*

Elton & Shirley  
Gillam, *The  
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I. Realize that God's **purpose** is to build Christ in you (James 1:2-4).



## II. Pray for wisdom in faith (James 1:5-8).



### III. See your **financial position** as irrelevant (James 1:9-11).



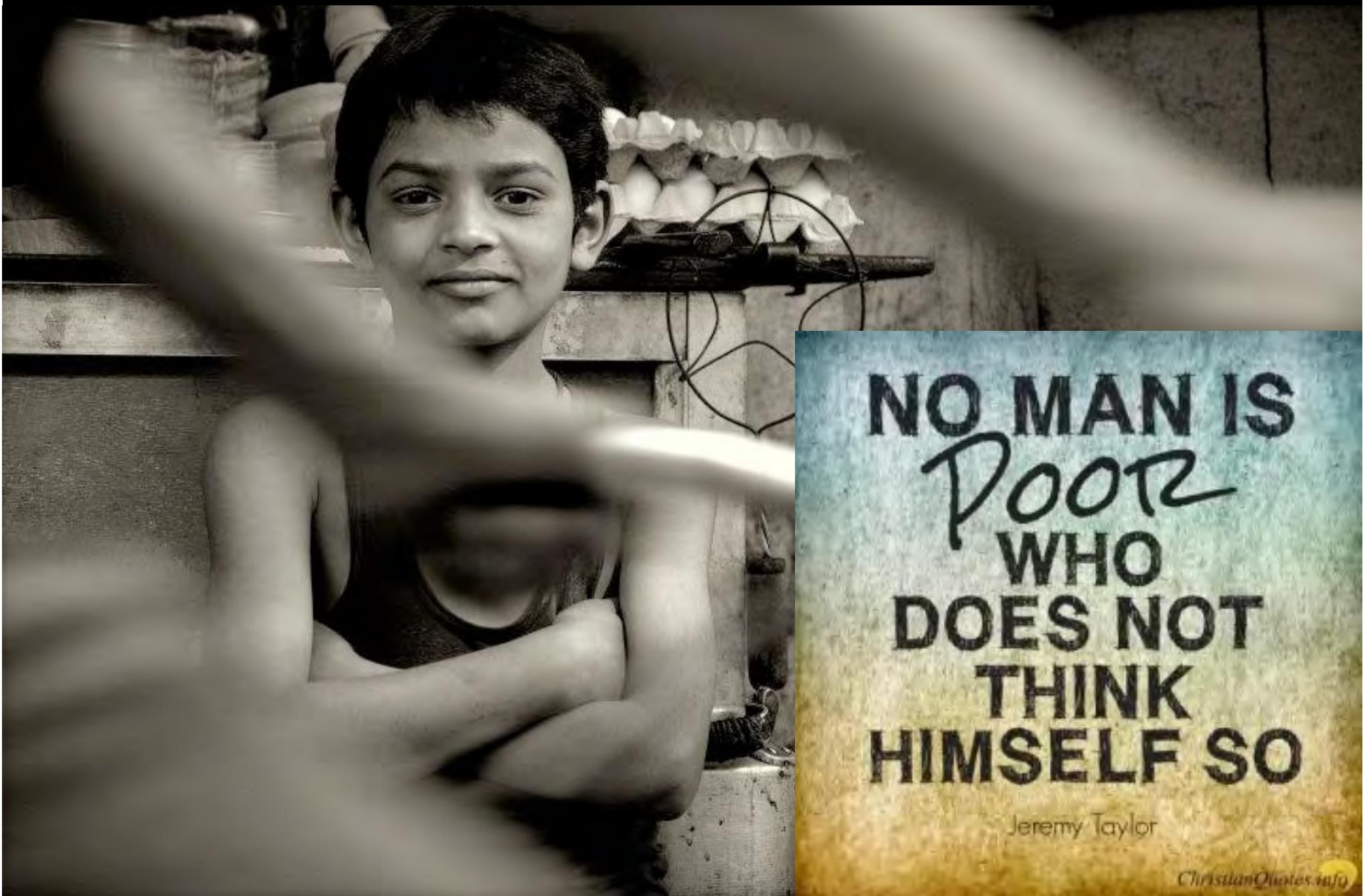
**"Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them" (James 1:9 NLT).**



**"And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. 11The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements"**  
**(James 1:10-11 NLT).**



# God honors poor Christians.



VIP

---





# Commander



Reports to

# Lieutenant Commander



# Have we adopted God's values?

HONOR GOD  
HELP THE  
POOR





**Our social position during trials will either elevate or lower us before others and God.**

I. Realize that God's **purpose** is to build Christ in you (James 1:2-4).



## II. Pray for wisdom in faith (James 1:5-8).



### III. See your **financial position** as irrelevant (James 1:9-11).



#### IV. Remember that God **promises** reward (James 1:12).



**"God blesses those  
who patiently endure  
testing and  
temptation. Afterward  
they will receive the  
crown of life that God  
has promised to  
those who love him"  
(James 1:12 NLT).**





# **The Biblical Wreath**

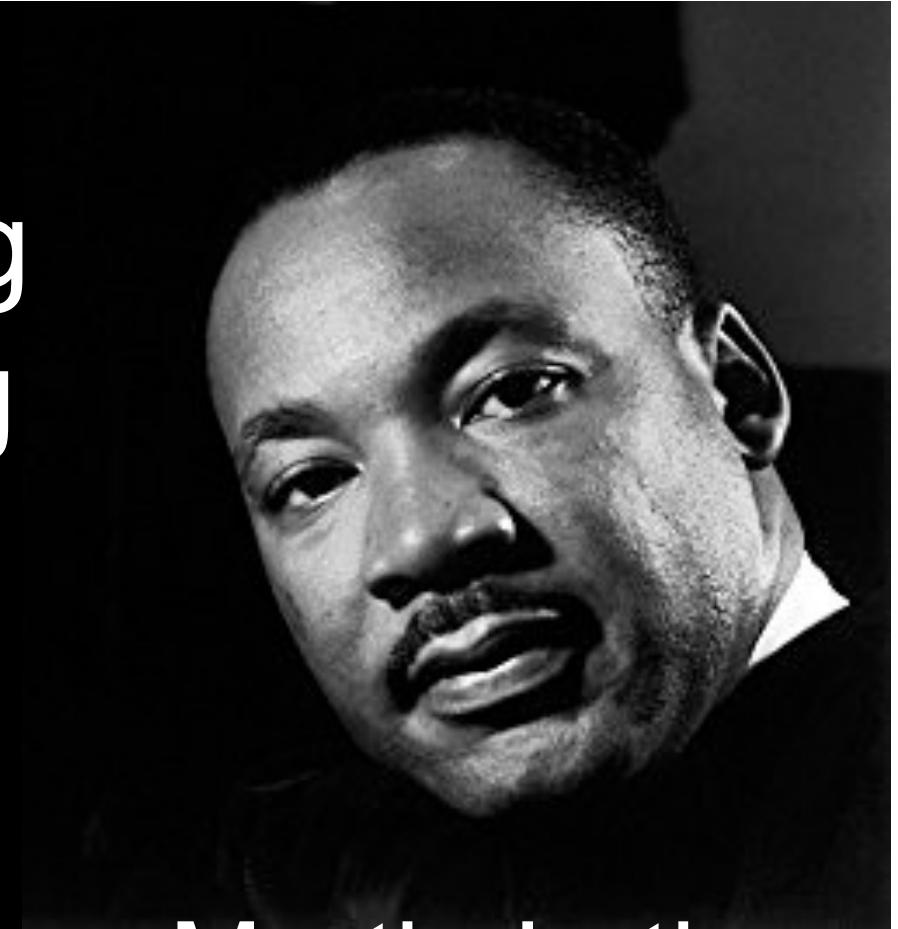
# HEROES

AMAZING STORIES OF FAITH



Imitate OT saints that persevered  
(Hebrews 11:4-40).

“If what you’re living for isn’t worth dying for, then it isn’t worth living for.”



Martin Luther  
King Jr.

I. Realize that God's **purpose** is to build Christ in you (James 1:2-4).



## II. Pray for wisdom in faith (James 1:5-8).



### III. See your **financial position** as irrelevant (James 1:9-11).



#### IV. Remember that God **promises** reward (James 1:12).



**V. Praise God for His gifts since  
temptations come from us  
—not Him (James 1:13-18).**





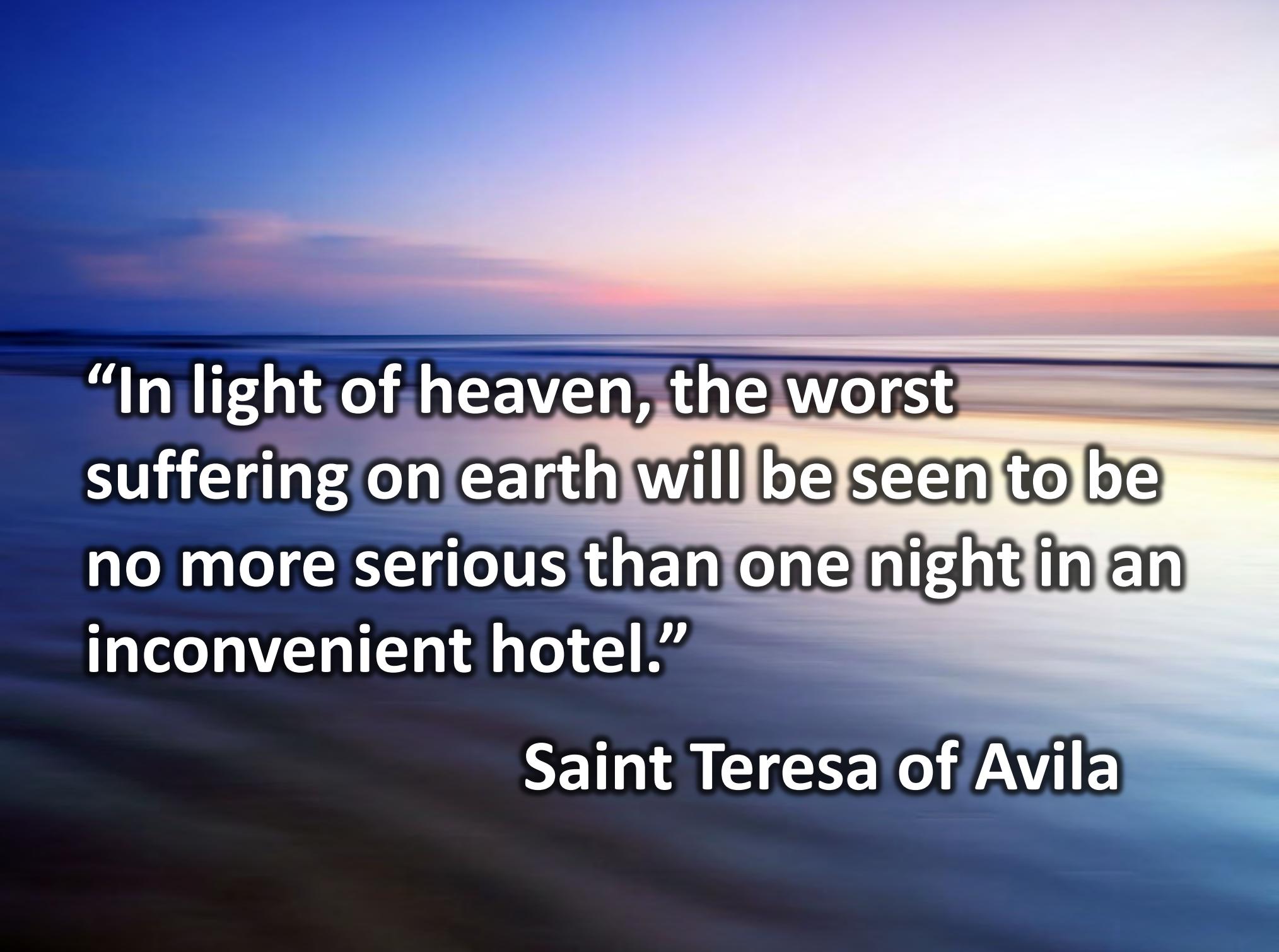
**"And remember, when you are being **tempted**, do not say, 'God is tempting me.' God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. **14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death"****

**(James 1:13-15 NLT).**



DailyDependence.wordpress.com

**“We don't experience our reality. We experience our perspective of reality.”**  
—Steven Furtick—

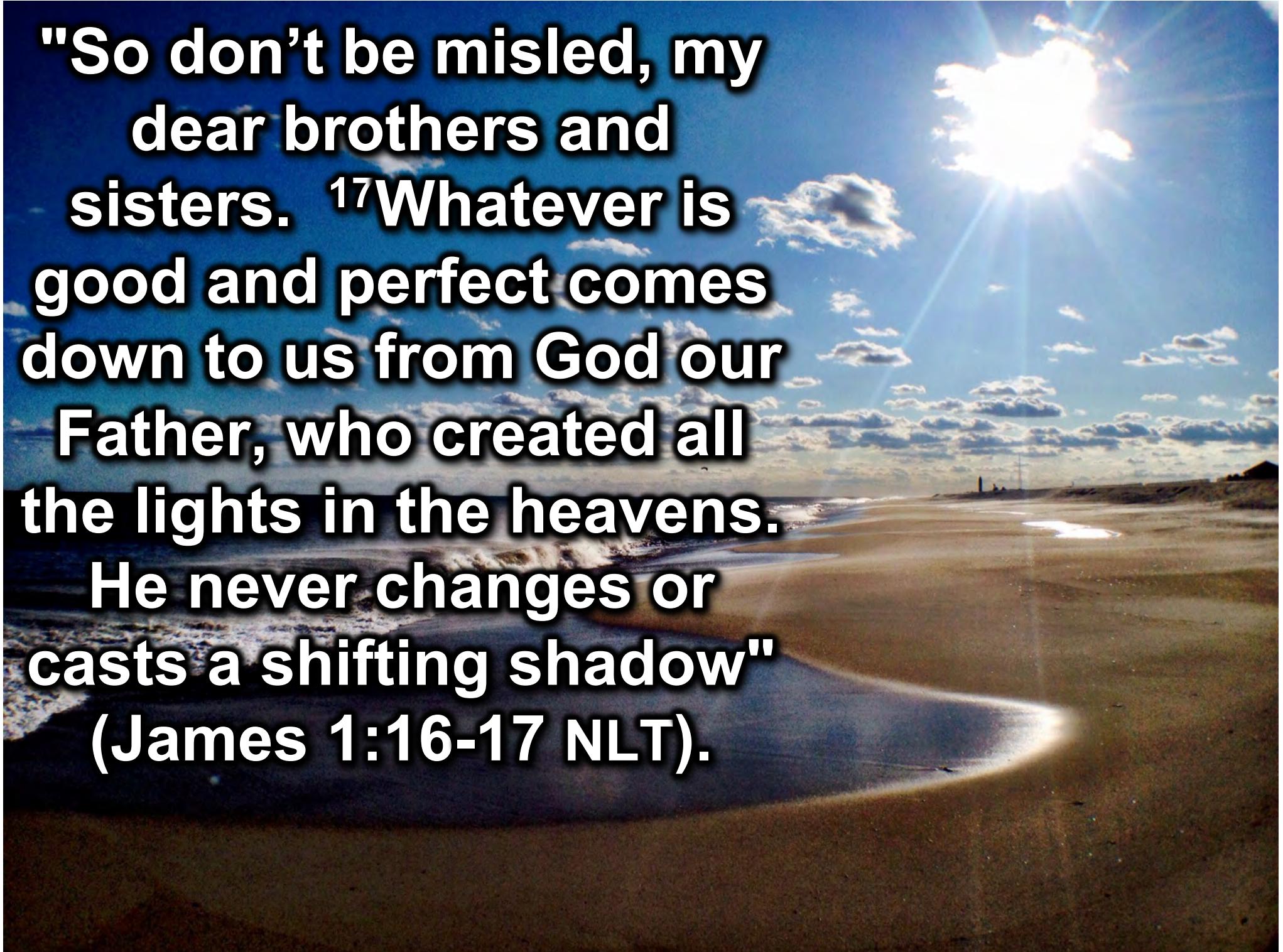


**“In light of heaven, the worst  
suffering on earth will be seen to be  
no more serious than one night in an  
inconvenient hotel.”**

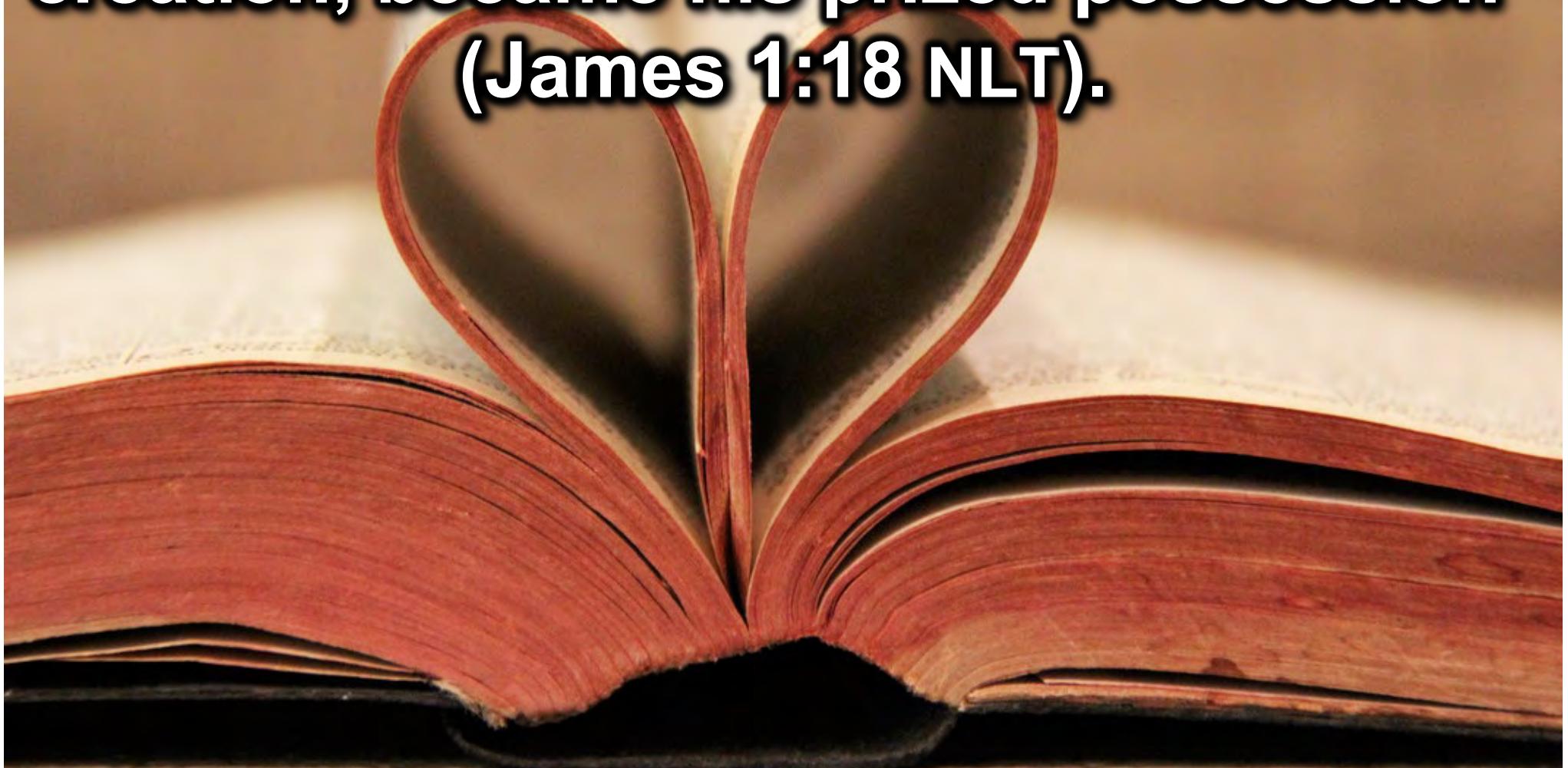
**Saint Teresa of Avila**

**"So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.**

**He never changes or casts a shifting shadow"**  
**(James 1:16-17 NLT).**



**"He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession"**  
**(James 1:18 NLT).**



# *How can you handle trials with joy?*



# Main Idea of James 1:2-18

Greet trials with joy  
by trusting God  
—not **circumstances**



# *How can you handle trials with joy?*

5 ways



# Five "Ps" to Handle Trials

Realize that God's **purpose** is to build Christ in you (2-4).  
Pray for wisdom in faith (5-8).  
See your financial **position** as irrelevant (9-11).  
Remember that God **promises** reward (12).  
Praise God for His gifts (13-18).



Let suffering mature you!

*Say, "Yes!"*





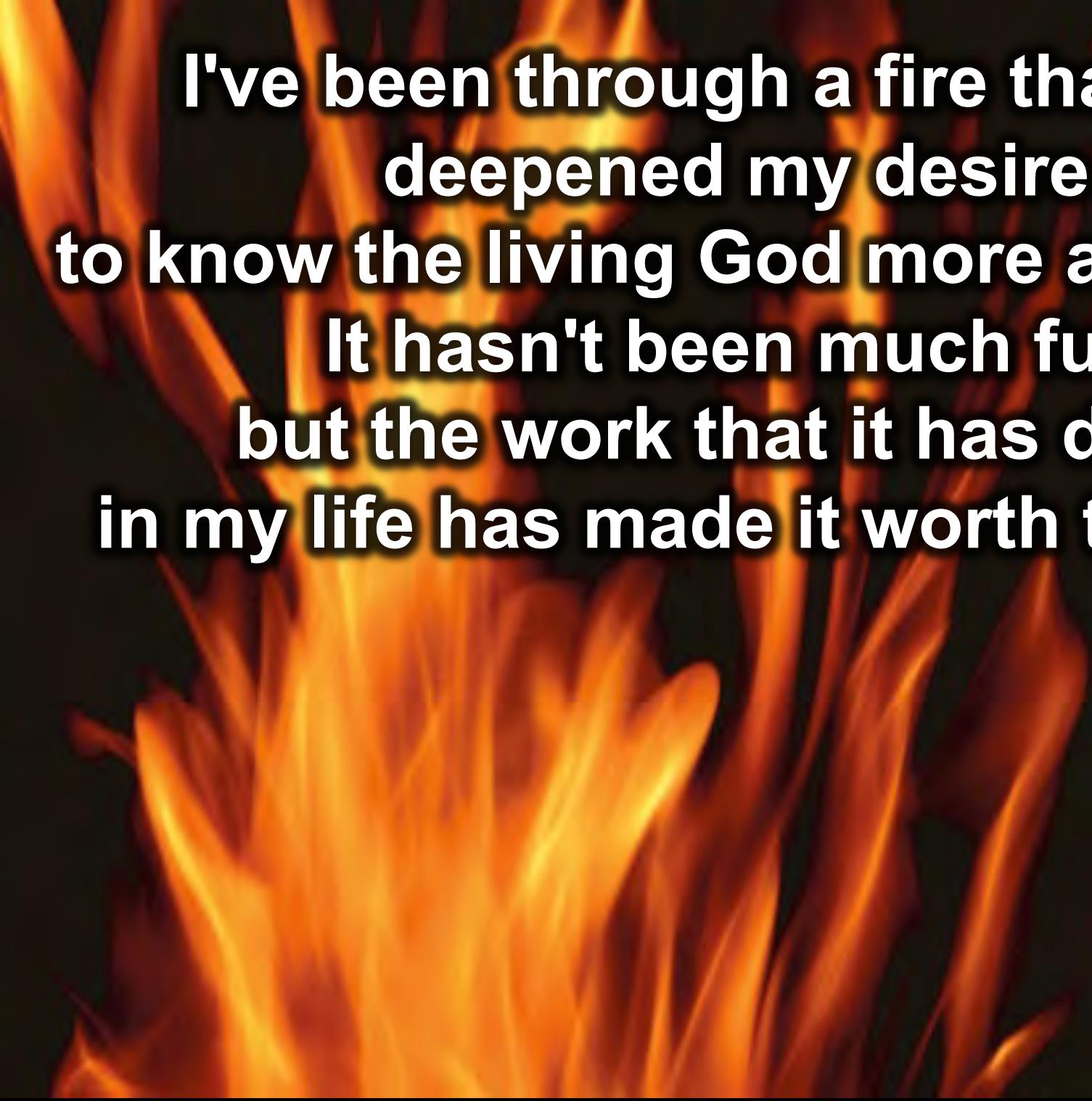
# The Fire

*Christine Wyrtzen*

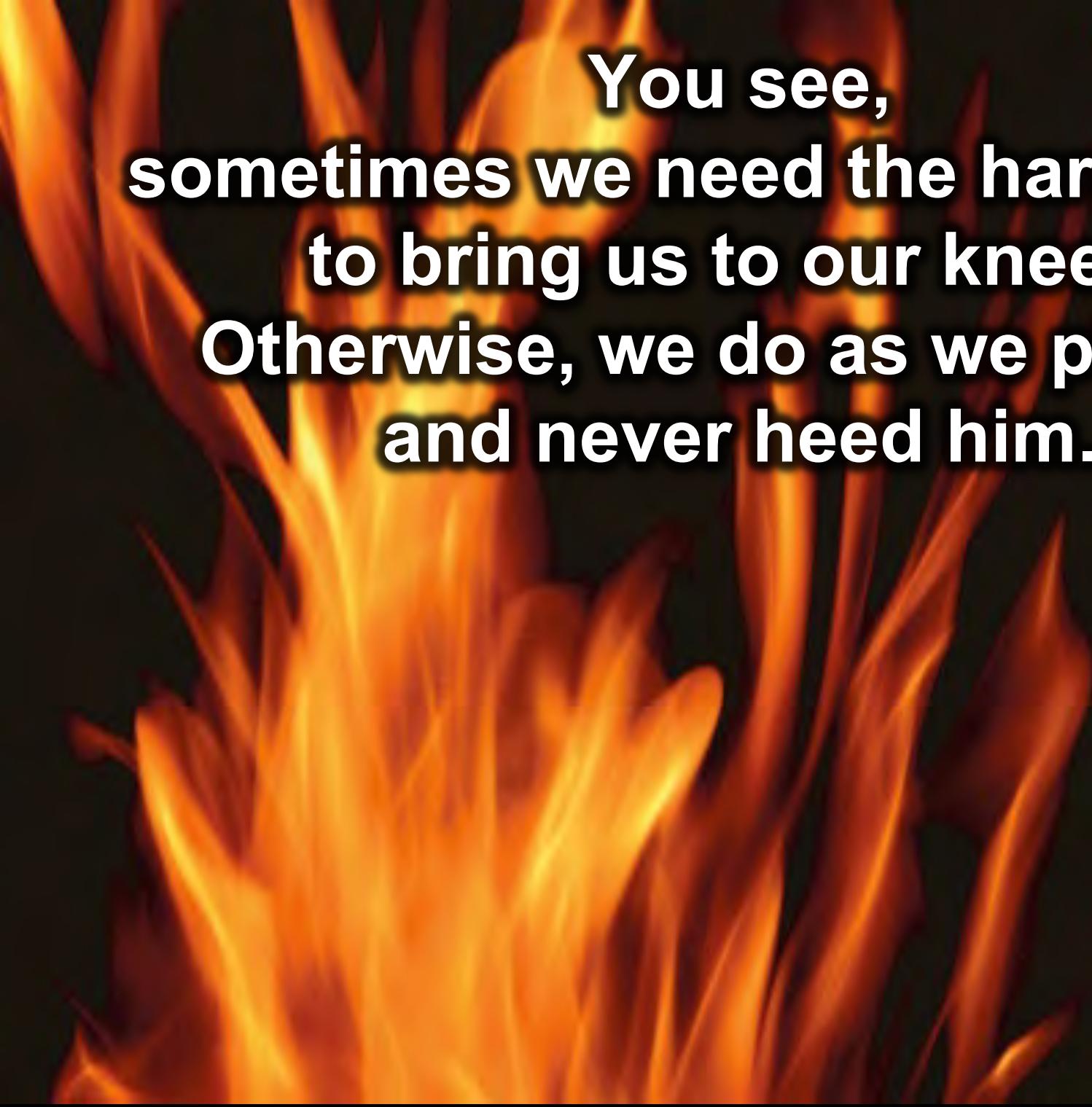
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© 1980 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Pub., Inc.)

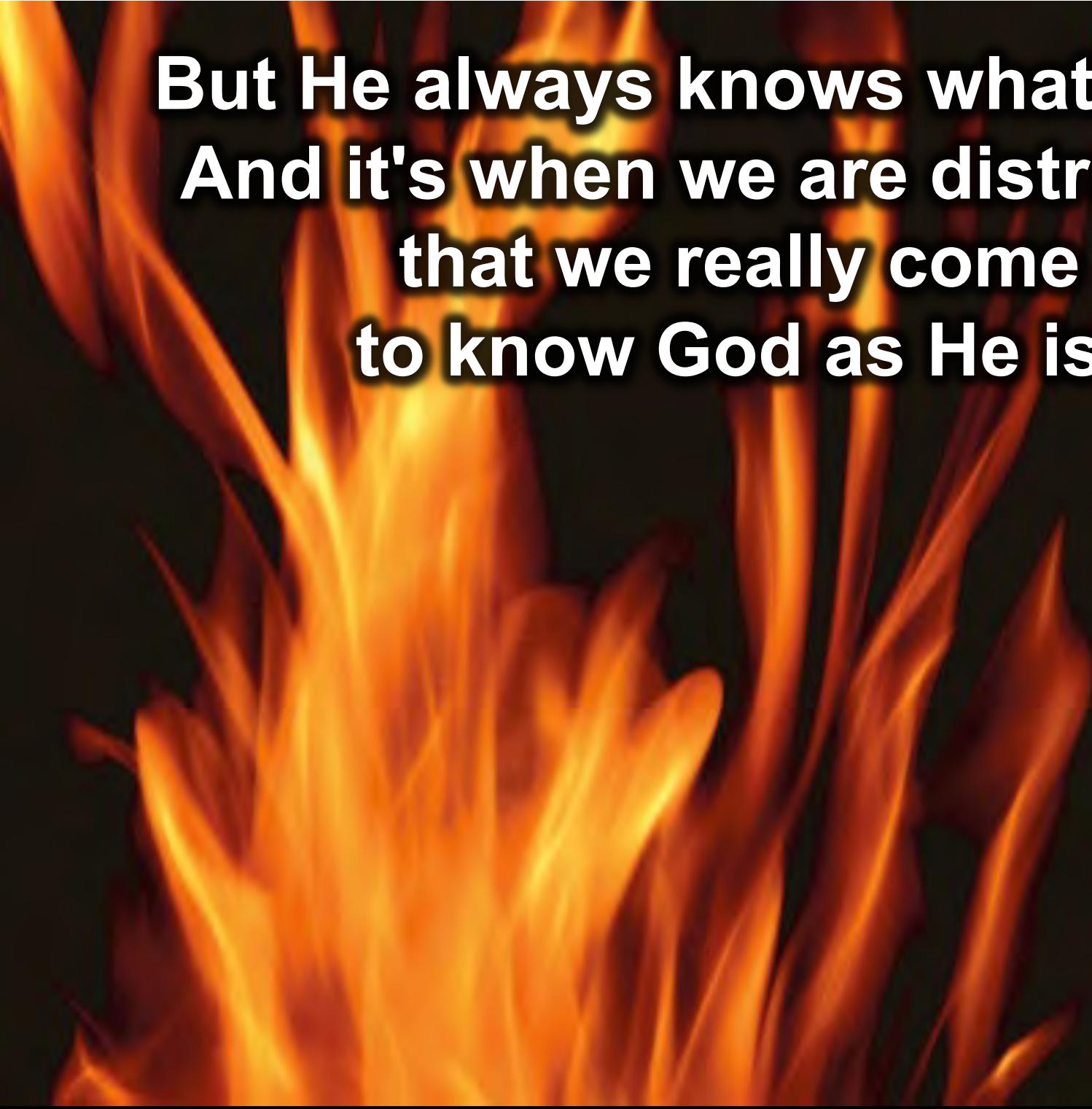
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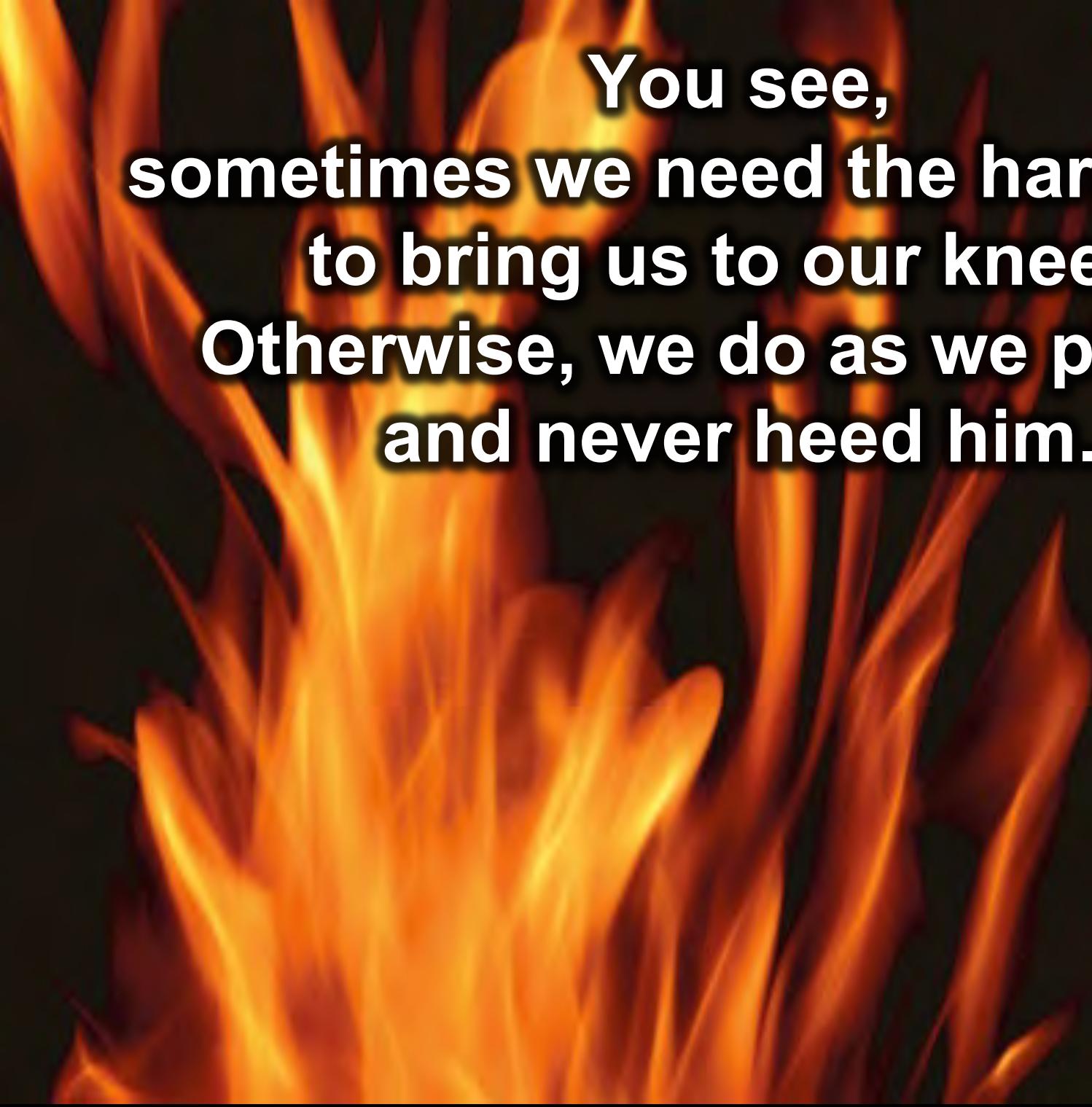
**I've been through a fire that has  
deepened my desire  
to know the living God more and more.  
It hasn't been much fun  
but the work that it has done  
in my life has made it worth the hurt.**



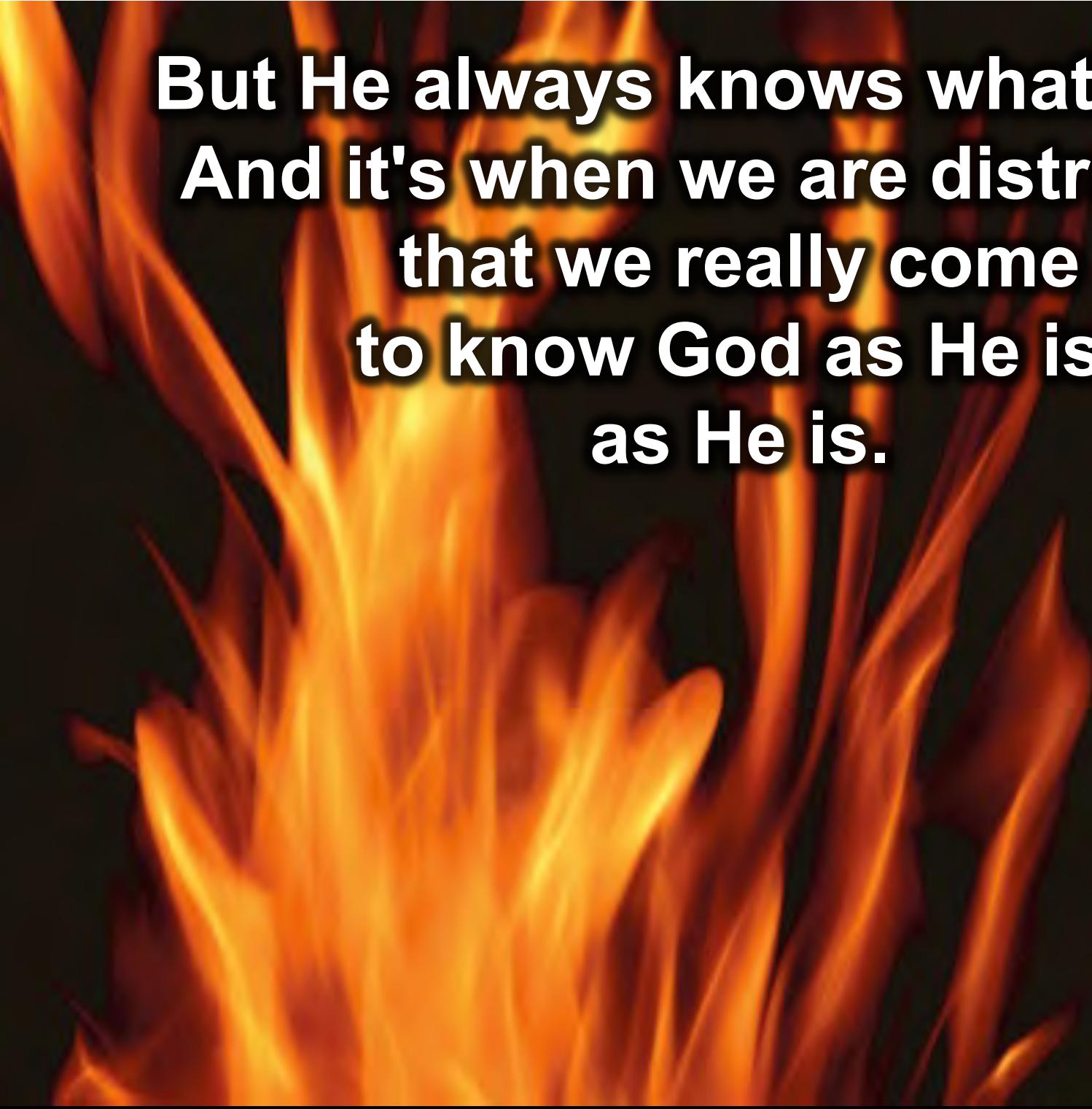
**You see,  
sometimes we need the hard times  
to bring us to our knees.  
Otherwise, we do as we please  
and never heed him.**



**But He always knows what's best  
And it's when we are distressed  
that we really come  
to know God as He is.**



**You see,  
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And it's when we are distressed  
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to know God as He is,  
as He is.

# *What is the path from trials to joy?*



James 1:2-4

# AVOIDING THE BLAME GAME



JAMES 1:13-18

Dr. David Martin • Amman International Church  
[AmmanChurch.org](http://AmmanChurch.org) • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)



2500 BC



AD 500



2000 BC



Ultimately:  
You are to blame!

# THE BLAME GAME

Genesis 3:1-13

Our excuses:

- Heritage
- Environment
- Passions
- Satan
- God



# UNDERSTANDING TRIALS VS. TEMPTATIONS

*Peirasmos: Two sides of the same coin*



External difficulties/suffering. God uses them to:

- ✓ Prove your faith is genuine
- ✓ Build steadfastness
- ✓ Develop spiritual maturity

# UNDERSTANDING TRIALS VS. TEMPTATIONS

*Peirasmos*: Two sides of the same coin



Inner solicitations to sin. Satan wants to:

- ✓ Turn your trials into temptations
- ✓ Entice you to sin so he can destroy you
- ✓ Deceive you into blaming God/others

# UNDERSTANDING THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATIONS

James 1:13-14

Prov.  
19:3

Temptations are **not** from God ("stop saying!")

1. God cannot be tempted (to sin)

Heb. 4:15 → Tempted, yet without sin

1 Sam. 2:2 → None holy as the Lord

2. God can never tempt anyone to sin

✓ He allows trials to build maturity

✓ God always provides a way out without  
sinning (1 Cor. 10:13)

# TEMPTATIONS TO SIN COME FROM WITHIN

☞ You are being tempted by your own "lusts"

*Epithumia* = intense passions, longings, desires

✓ Good sense (Phil. 1:23)

✓ Bad sense (Mark 7:21-23)

A result of man's depravity; sinful nature

(Jer. 17:9; Gal. 5:17)

Each has unique vulnerabilities

☞ Your inner lusts are powerful

1) They drag you into temptation

2) They entice/entrap you to sin  
(focus on pleasures; not consequences)





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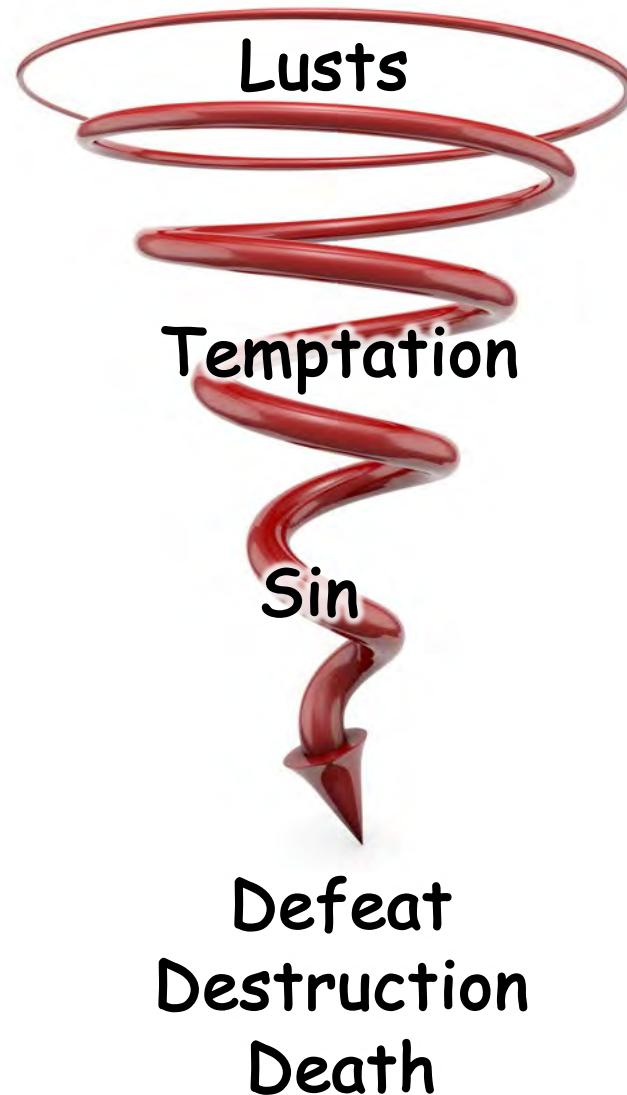
1) They drag you into temptation

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(focus on pleasures; not consequences)



# UNDERSTANDING THE TEMPTATION SPIRAL

Lust + Temptation = Sin



# DO NOT BE DECEIVED. . .BRETHREN

James 1:16-18

All good gifts are from heaven

- ✓ From the Father of lights
- ✓ God's character never changes (Mal. 3:6)

His greatest gift to you: A new birth

- ✓ He chose you (Eph. 1:4)
- ✓ The "Gospel" is the means (Rom. 1:16)
- ✓ You are His "first fruits" (1 Cor. 16:15)



# PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TODAY

Don't play the "blame game"! Be conscious of your own depravity and sinful choices.

James 1:14

1 Cor. 10:10-12



# PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TODAY

Break the temptation spiral!



# PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TODAY



Break the temptation spiral!

- ◆ Pray  
(James 1:5; Matt. 6:13)
- ◆ Avoid sources of temptation  
(James 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:22)
- ◆ Study, obey, memorize scripture  
(James 1:22; Psalm 119:9,11;  
Rom. 12:2)
- ◆ Confess and repent  
(James 4:8)

## Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Trials	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favoritism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Ultimately Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Be Wise	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation

*Jerusalem*

*AD 44-47*

**James**

# The Danger of Listening to Sermons



*James 1:19-27*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Amman International Church  
[AmmanChurch.org](http://AmmanChurch.org) • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

# Annual Exposure to Scripture



Church services	50
Bible studies	50
Daily devotions	365
<u>Podcasts &amp; Misc</u>	<u>35</u>
Annual Total	500
<u>x Years Christian</u>	<u>50</u>
Lifetime Total	<b>25,000</b>

# The Danger of Listening to Sermons



*James 1:19-27*

# Does the Bible really impact your life?





Kevin Carden

**How can you let God's  
Word take root in you?**

The Title

*EPISTLE OF*  
JAMES  *BONDservant*  
*of Christ Jesus*

## JEWISH DIASPORA AT PENTECOST

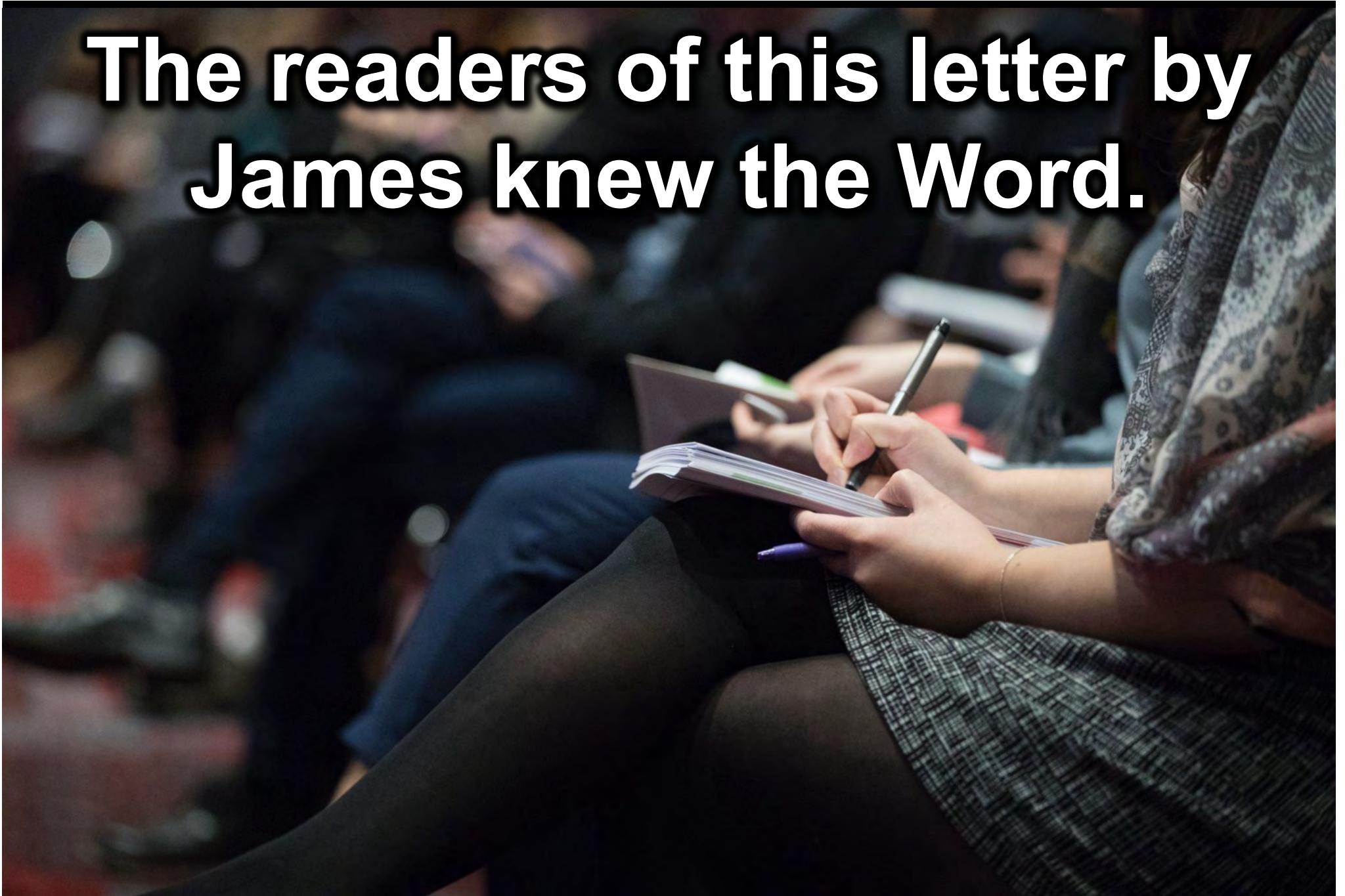
## MAP 85

© 1985 The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

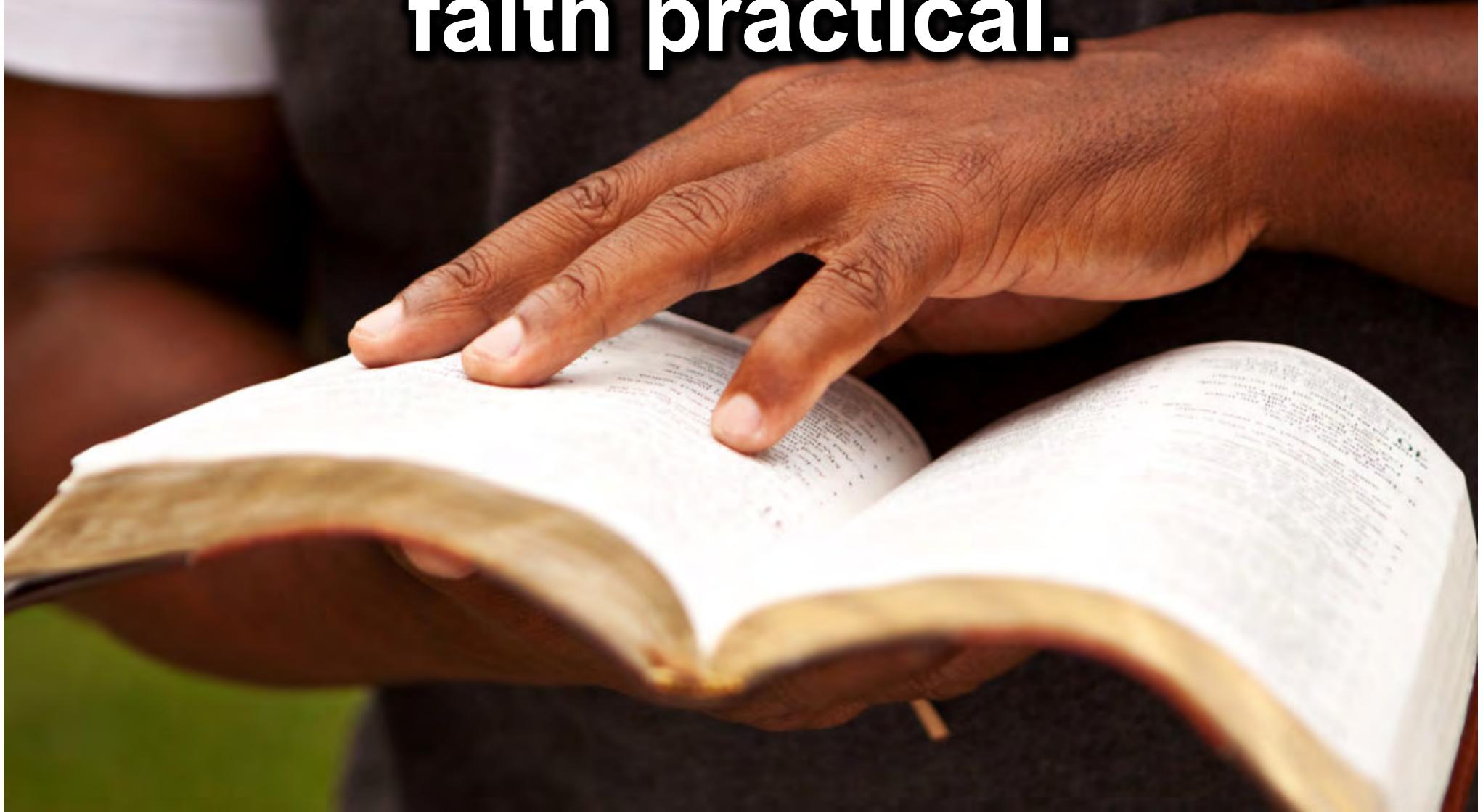
## See Acts 2:9-11



The readers of this letter by  
James knew the Word.



**But they had not made their  
faith practical.**



# Listen to the Word

**"He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created"**  
**(James 1:18 NIV).**





3 ways...

Kevin Carden

How can you let God's  
Word take root in you?

# I. Prepare to accept what the Bible says (1:19-21).



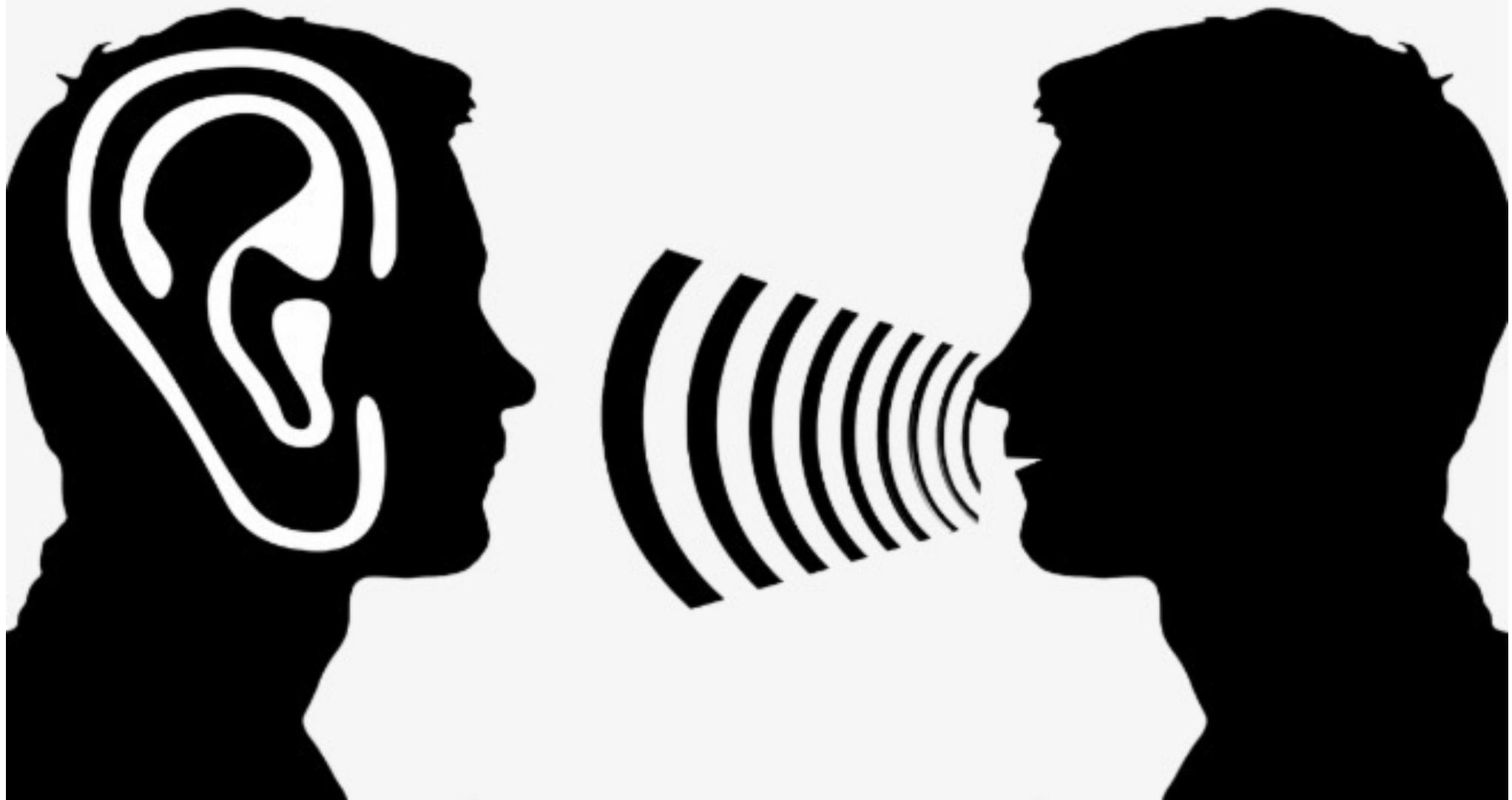
*How can you let God's Word take root in you?*

**"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry"**  
**(James 1:19 NLT).**



**Be quick to  
listen...**

**..and slow  
to speak**



A photograph of a man and a woman in profile, facing each other. The man, on the left, is wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and has his right hand raised with fingers spread, as if counting. The woman, on the right, is wearing a green t-shirt and has her chin resting on her hand, looking at the man. They appear to be in a casual indoor setting.

**Daily  
words**

**30,000**  
**25,000**

How can we **listen**  
rather than **speak**?



**1: Let others express themselves**

**2: Thank the person for being willing to talk**

**3: Don't take offense when s/he disagrees**

**4: Hear the content—not way of expression**

**5: Be slow to defend your opinion/make excuses**

**6: Try to be humble**

**7: Try to understand what the other is saying**

**8: Even if you disagree, learn by listening**

**9: Remember that you have blind spots**

**10: Share your thoughts gently without anger**

**11: Trust in God's timing**

## **11 Simple, Profound Ways to Be Slow to Speak and Quick to Hear**

# Listen to the Word

**"He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created"**  
**(James 1:18 NIV).**



**Be quick to  
listen**

**Be slow to  
speak**

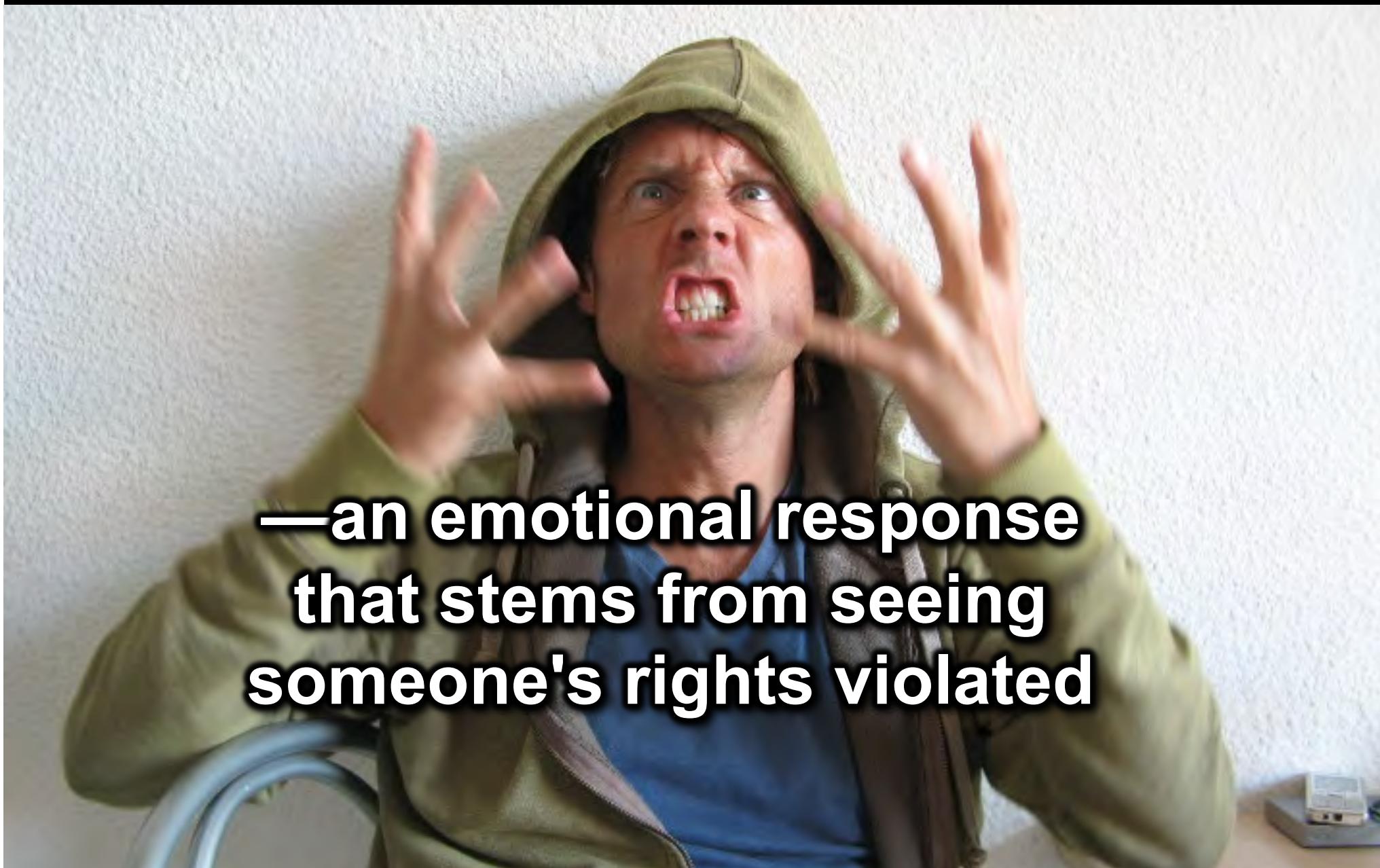


**Be slow to  
become angry**

**"Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires"**  
**(James 1:20 NLT).**



# What is anger?



**—an emotional response  
that stems from seeing  
someone's rights violated**



**Matthew 21:12-17**

**Mark 11:15-19**

**Luke 19:45-48**

**John 2:13-24**

**THE EASTER STORY**

**CLEANSING  
THE TEMPLE**



[www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org)

# Results of Sinful Anger



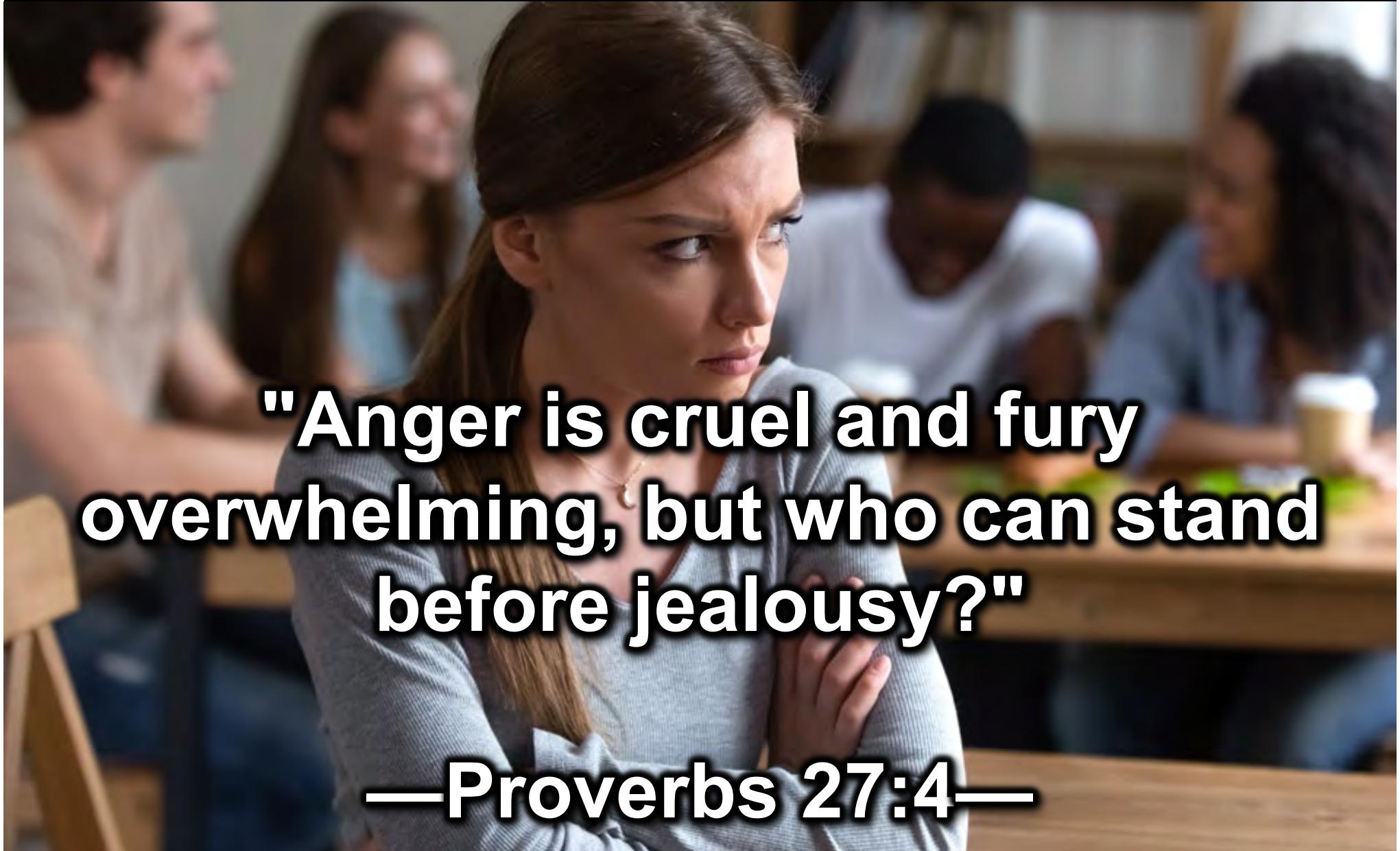
**"So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls"**  
**(James 1:21 NLT).**

**"I made a covenant with my eyes  
not to look with lust at a young  
woman."**



**Job 31:1 NLT**

# Jealousy



**"Anger is cruel and fury  
overwhelming, but who can stand  
before jealousy?"**

**—Proverbs 27:4—**



Kevin Carden

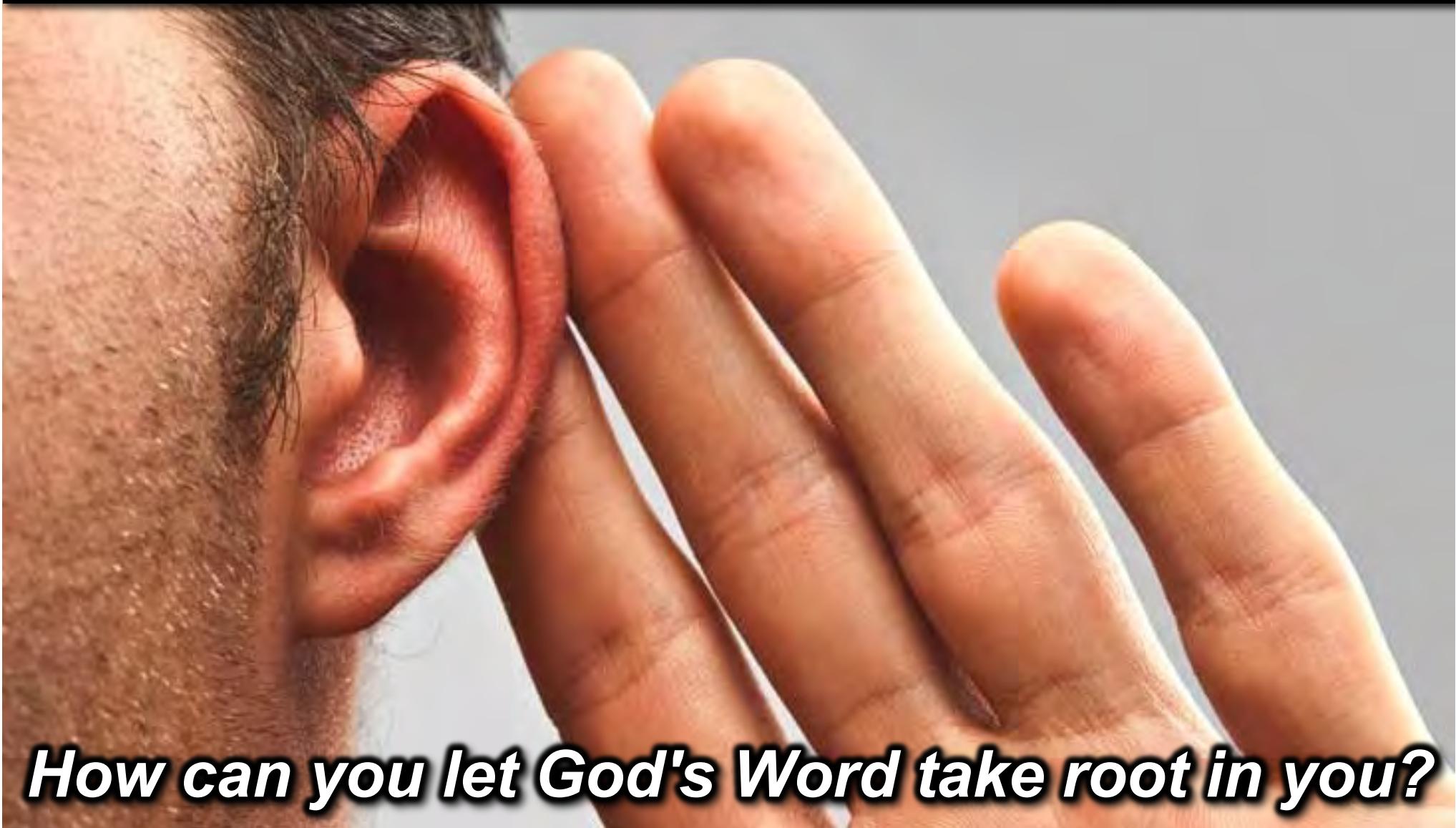
**How can you let God's  
Word take root in you?**

# I. Prepare to accept what the Bible says (1:19-21).



*How can you let God's Word take root in you?*

## II. Don't just listen to the Word —obey it (1:22-25)!



***How can you let God's Word take root in you?***

**"But don't just listen to God's word.  
You must do what it says. Otherwise,  
you are only fooling yourselves"**  
**(James 1:22 NLT).**



*Just live it.*

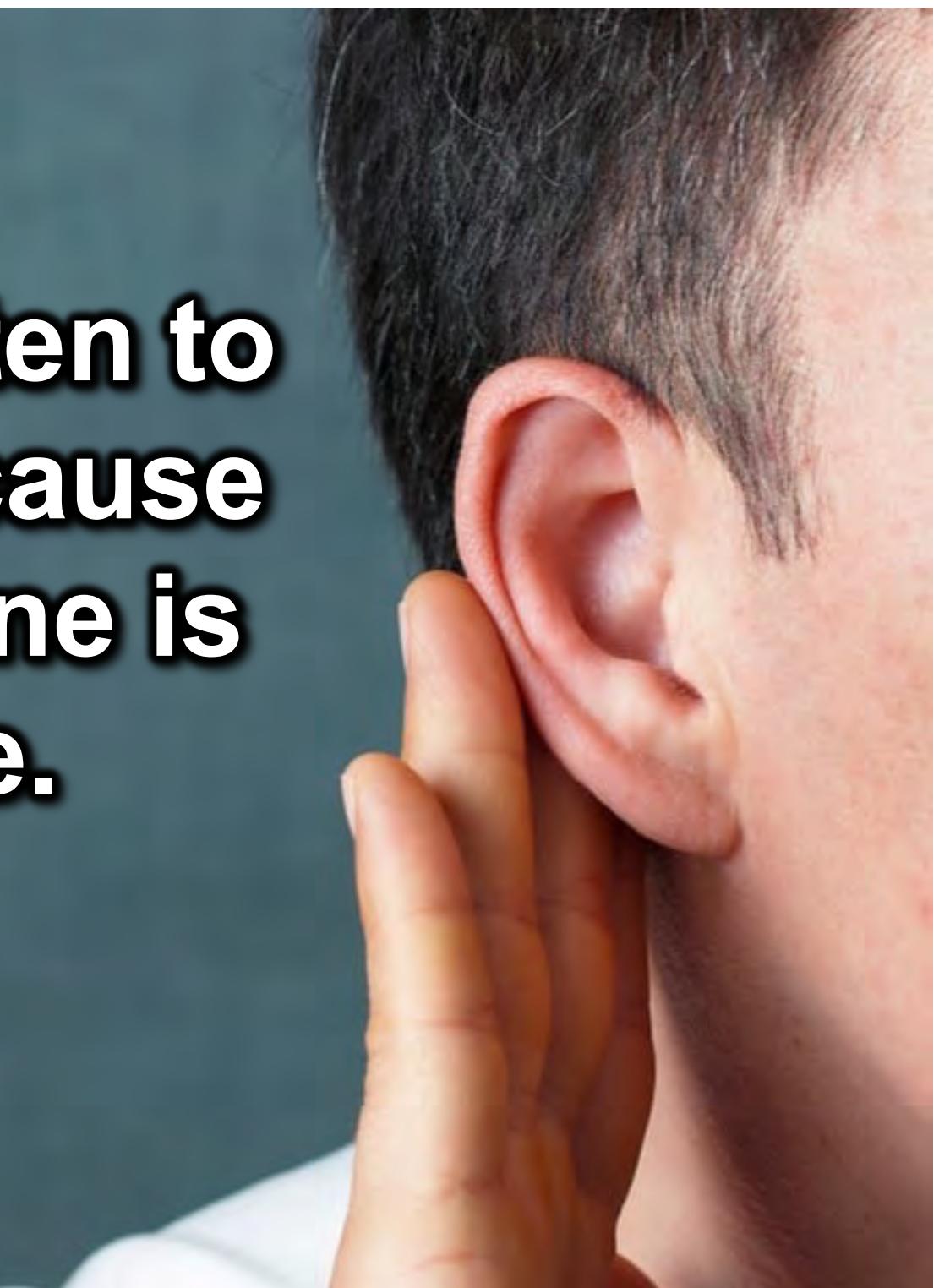
# Resting on the Word





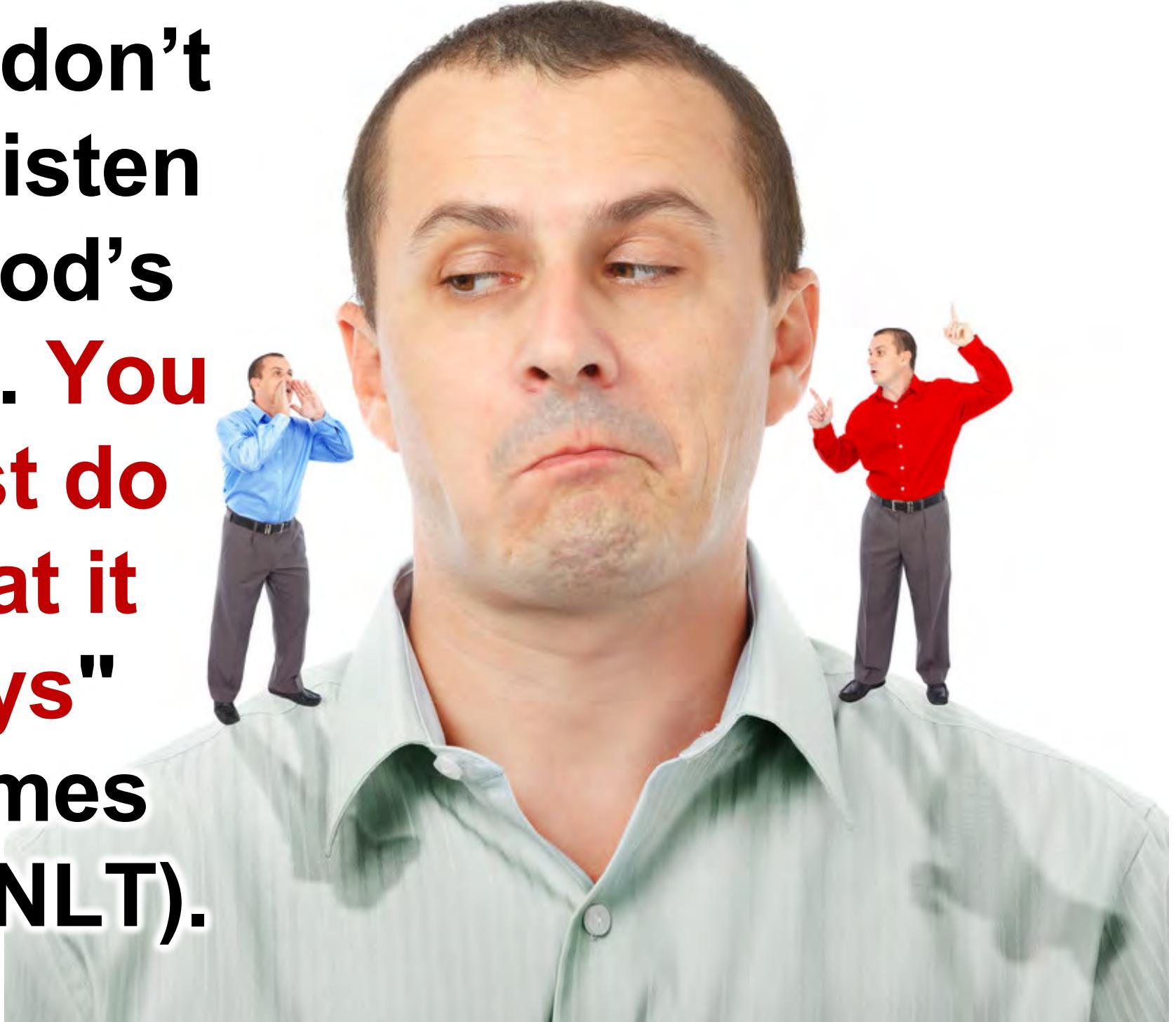
James 1:22

**Don't just listen to  
the Bible because  
listening alone is  
deceptive.**



**"But don't  
just listen  
to God's  
word. You  
must do  
what it  
says"**

**(James  
1:22 NLT).**



# Listening ≠ Obeying



# The Danger of Listening to Sermons



*James 1:19-27*

"For if **you** listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at **your** face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> **You** see yourself, walk away, and forget what **you** look like. <sup>25</sup> But if **you** look carefully into the perfect law that sets **you** free, and if **you** do what it says and don't forget what **you** have done, then **you** will be blessed in what **you** do." (1:23-25 NLT). **anthropos (person)**  
**anthropos (person)**  
**anthropos (person)**

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a **man** who looks at **his** face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at **himself**, goes away and immediately forgets what **he** looks like. <sup>25</sup> But the **man** who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not ~~forgetting~~ **he** will be blessed in what **he** does" (1:23-25 NIV). **aner (man, husband)**

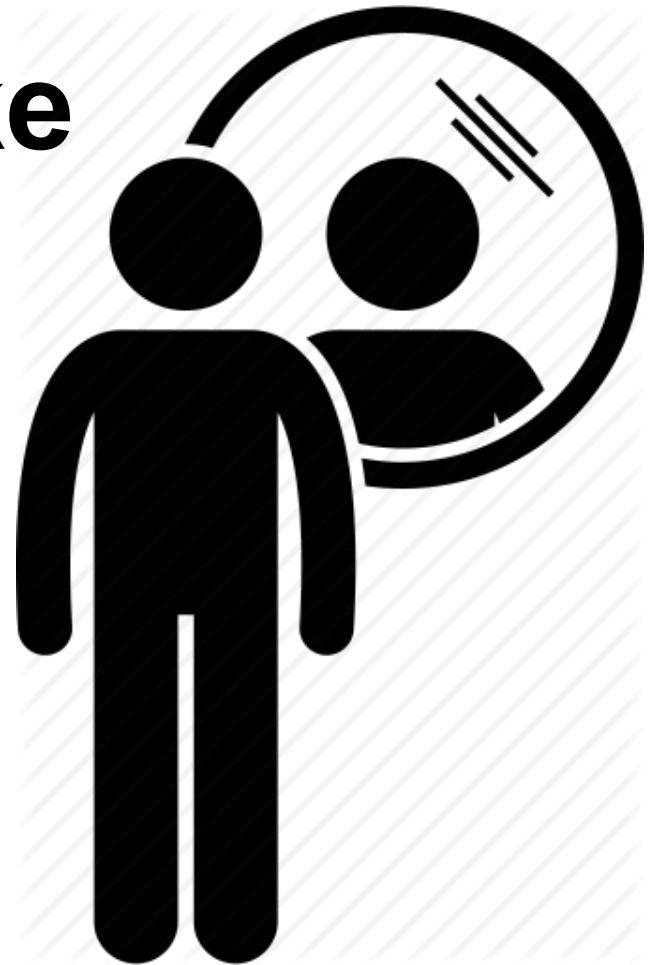
# Responses to Mirrors



**"If the barn needs  
painting, paint it!"**

# Options if you don't like what you see:

- Break the mirror
- Ignore the mirror
- Make changes

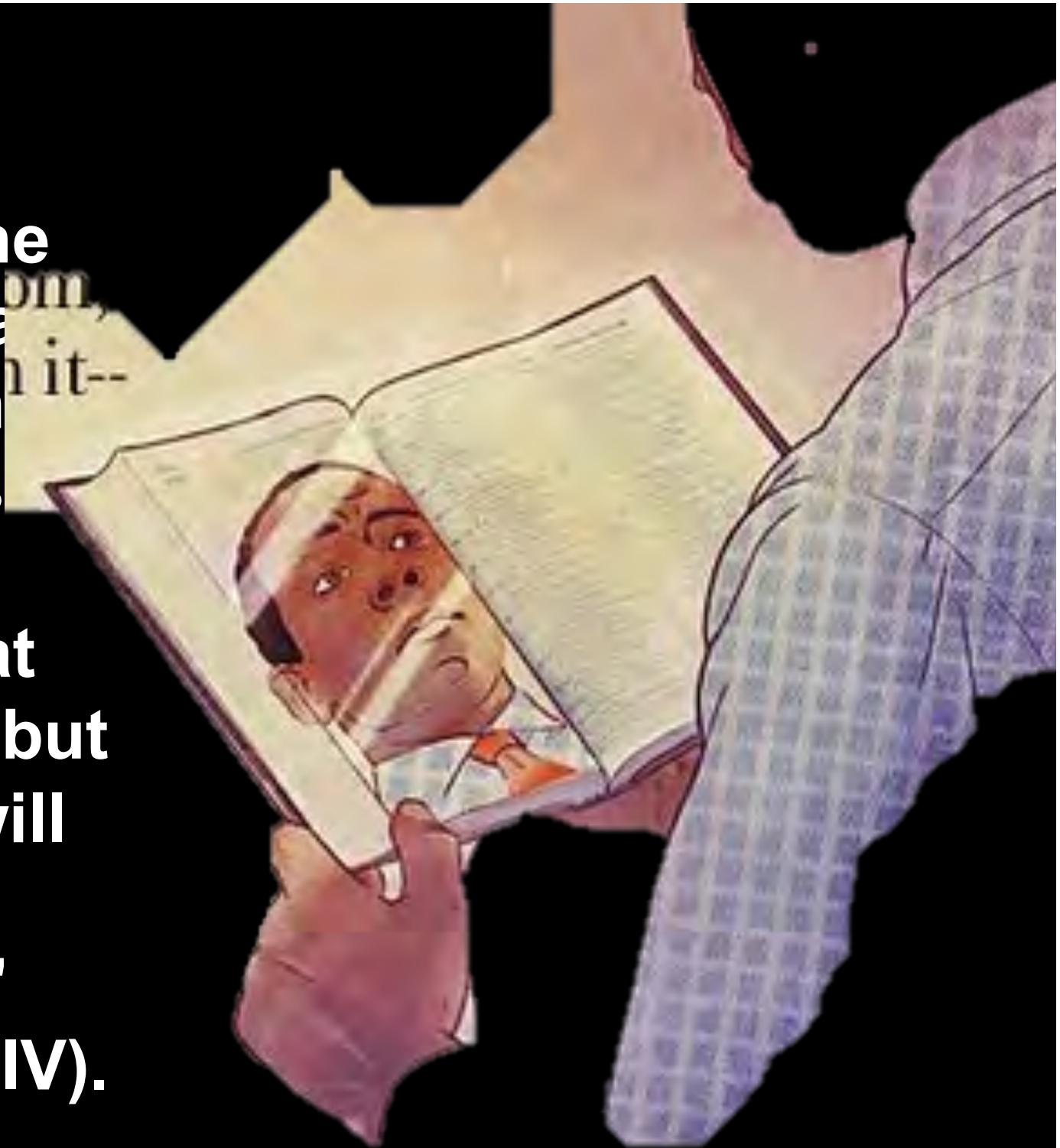


# Our Mirror

- Break the mirror
- Ignore the mirror
- Make changes



**"But the man  
who looks  
intently into the  
perfect law that  
gives freedom  
and continues  
to do this, not  
forgetting what  
he has heard, but  
doing it—he will  
be blessed in  
what he does"  
(James 1:25 NIV).**



### III. Obey the Word in speech, compassion, and purity (1:26-27).



**"If you claim to be religious but don't control your **tongue**, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.**

**27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means **caring** for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world **corrupt** you" (James 1:26-27 NLT).**

# Bad Speech



To please God, you must care  
for widows, orphans, and  
other weak people  
(James 1:27a).



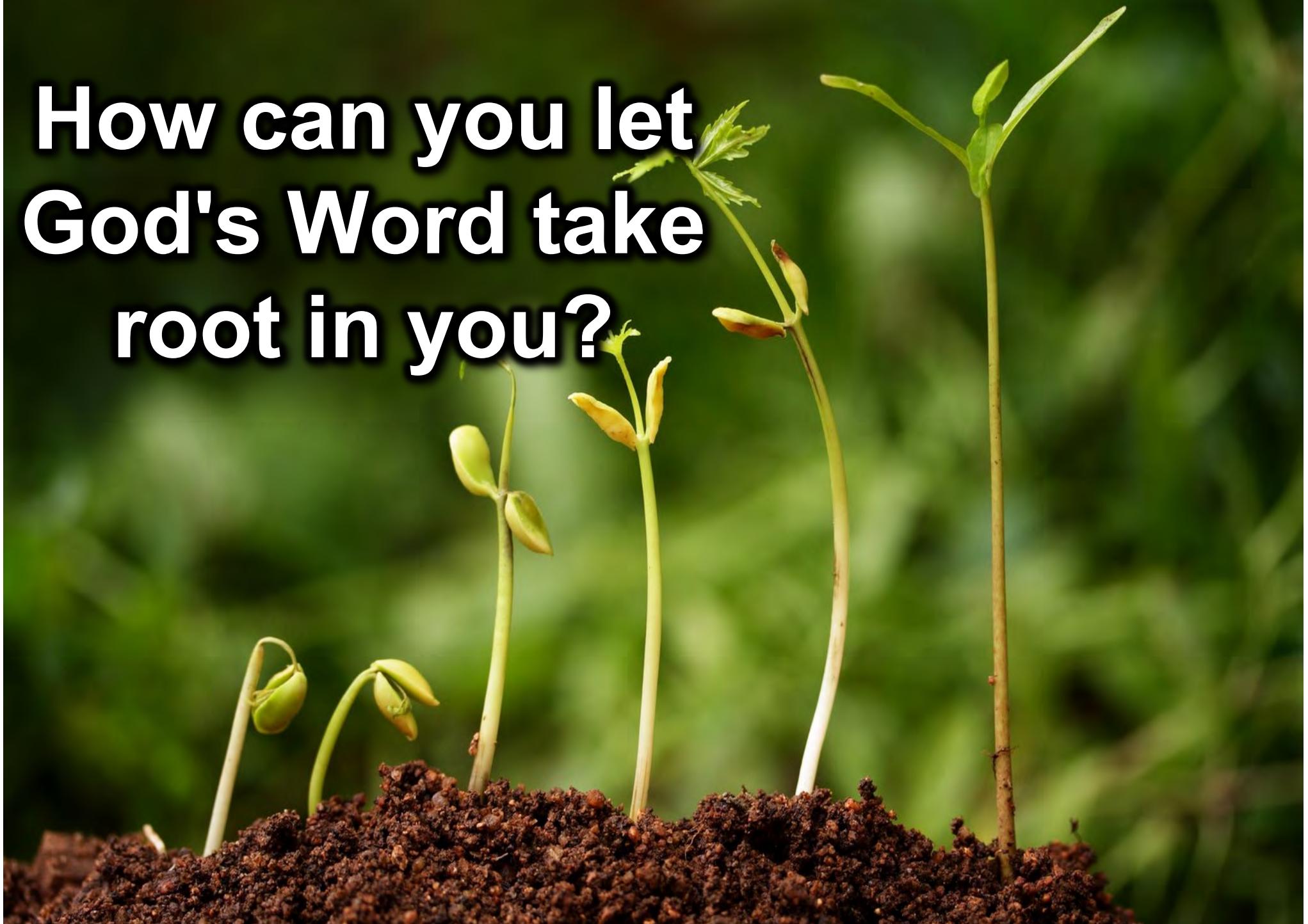
**COMPASSION**



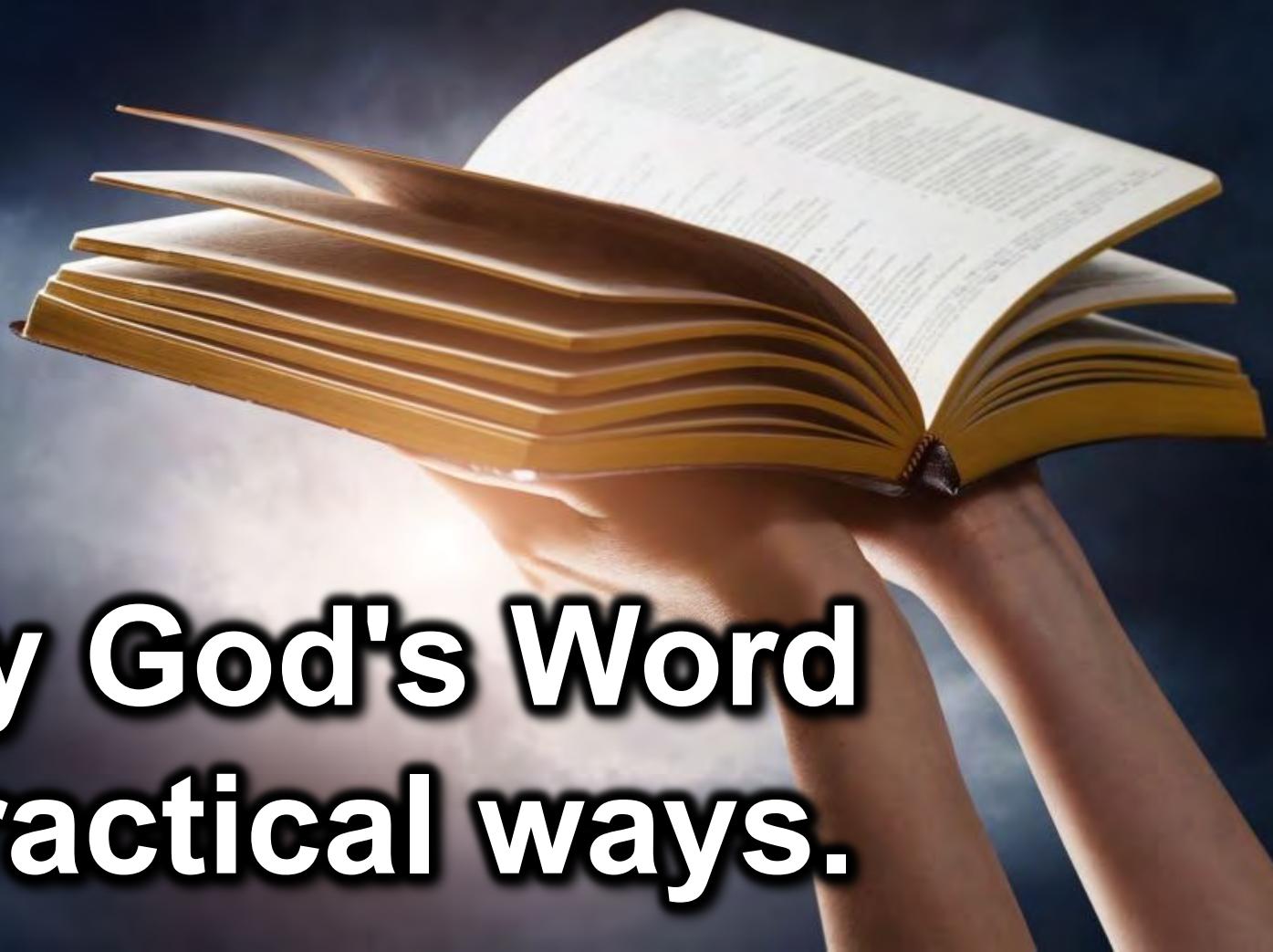
To please God you must keep  
yourself from getting stained  
by worldly values  
(James 1:27b).

**PURITY**

**How can you let  
God's Word take  
root in you?**



# Main Idea of James 1:19-27



**Obey God's Word  
in practical ways.**

# Commit to Listen (James 1:19-20)



**Quick to Hear   Slow to Speak   Slow to Anger**

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4:29 NASB

**"If you claim to be religious but don't control your **tongue**, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.**

**27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means **caring** for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world **corrupt** you" (James 1:26-27 NLT).**

- Measurable
- Realistic
- Accountable

A photograph of a person's hands holding a red book with gold lettering that reads "THE HOLY BIBLE". The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is a bright, golden sunset over a field.

Get Practical



# *Autobiography in 5 short chapters*

P o r t i a      N e l s o n

## Chapter 1

I walk down the street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I fall in.

I am lost. . . I am hopeless.

It isn't my fault.

It takes forever to find a way out.



# *Autobiography in 5 short chapters*

P o r t i a      N e l s o n

## Chapter 2

I walk down the same street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

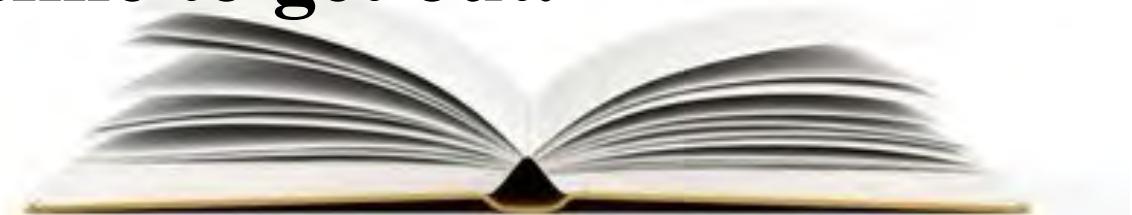
I pretend I don't see it.

I fall in again.

I can't believe I'm in the same place.

But it isn't my fault.

It still takes a long time to get out.



# *Autobiography in 5 short chapters*

P o r t i a      N e l s o n

## Chapter 3

I walk down the same street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I see it is there.

I still fall in. . . it's a habit.

My eyes are open.

I know where I am.

It is my fault.

I get out immediately.



# *Autobiography in 5 short chapters*

P o r t i a      N e l s o n

## Chapter 4

I walk down the same street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I walk around it.



# *Autobiography in 5 short chapters*

P o r t i a      N e l s o n

## Chapter 5

I walk down another street.



# James 2

# Rich Man, Poor Man



*James 2:1-13*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Amman International Church  
[AmmanChurch.org](http://AmmanChurch.org) • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)



# CHURCH RETREAT

June 18-20

# Mr. & Mrs. Miles



**Surely *you* don't...**

**favor the rich?**



# Not a new issue...



# Proverbs 19:4

**Wealth brings  
many friends...**



**...but a poor man's  
friend deserts him.**



## Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Trials	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favoritism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Ultimately Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Be Wise	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation

*Jerusalem*

*AD 44-47*

# James: Flavoring the rich!



James 2:1

Don't favor  
the rich!

"My brothers, as believers  
in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
don't show favoritism."



# Do You Agree?

1. Our church should have only locals on certain committees.
2. Church leaders must be from the middle class.
3. Our pastor should be foreigner.
4. It's OK to reserve better seats at church for certain people.
5. Pastors from the West should earn more than locals with equal experience and roles.

# Favoritism

# Other Examples?

What other examples of favoritism do you sometimes see in the church?



WHY NOT  
FAVOR THE  
RICH?

- 5 REASONS

Our outline of James 2...

# Favoring the rich...

1. Indicates impure motives (2-4)



## *James 2:2-4 NIV*

➤ Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**My brothers,  
as believers  
in our  
glorious  
Lord Jesus  
Christ, don't  
show  
favoritism.**  
—James 2:1



# Christ Church, Philadelphia



# Christ Church, Philadelphia



# Evil Thoughts

Some of that money  
may spill my way!

Will he leave the  
church?

Maybe I'll need to  
leave the church!





# *What is favoritism?*

- **"preferential treatment, especially when unjust or narrowly discriminating"**  
**(Funk & Wagnalls)**
- **to treat another person based upon his financial status and from an improper motive**  
**(James 2:4)**

## Favoring the rich...

1. Indicates impure motives (2-4)
2. Insults the poor (5-6a)



## *James 2:5-6a NIV*

➤ Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have insulted the poor.



Prasad  
India  
Malayalam

ദി ടെലിവിഷൻ ബോസിക്കലി

# No Pum Myanmar Burmese

# ||6C| സ്കൂളിൽക്കൂടുതാനായ

**Suresh  
Sri Lanka  
Tamil**



**திருமதையின்...அடிப்படை**

**Sokheang  
Cambodia  
Khmer**



**មូលដ្ឋានក្រឹមនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា**



**Brian Mutai**  
**Kenya**  
**Swahili**

*biblia kwa ujumla*

Badamdorj  
Mongolia  
Mongolian



Библи...Үндсэндээ

# No Pum's Classroom (Myanmar)



# No Pum's Home (Myanmar)



# No Pum's Orphans (Myanmar)



# Most Admired Woman



## Favoring the rich...

1. Indicates impure motives (2-4)
2. Insults the poor (5-6a)
3. Indulges oppressors (6b-7)



## *James 2:6b-7 NIV*

➤ Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

# World's Richest Man = Putin



# Indulging oppressors



**"I realize that we  
should not  
emphasize the rich  
over the poor, but  
it's seldom we have  
a multi-millionaire  
visit us."**



# CHURCH RETREAT

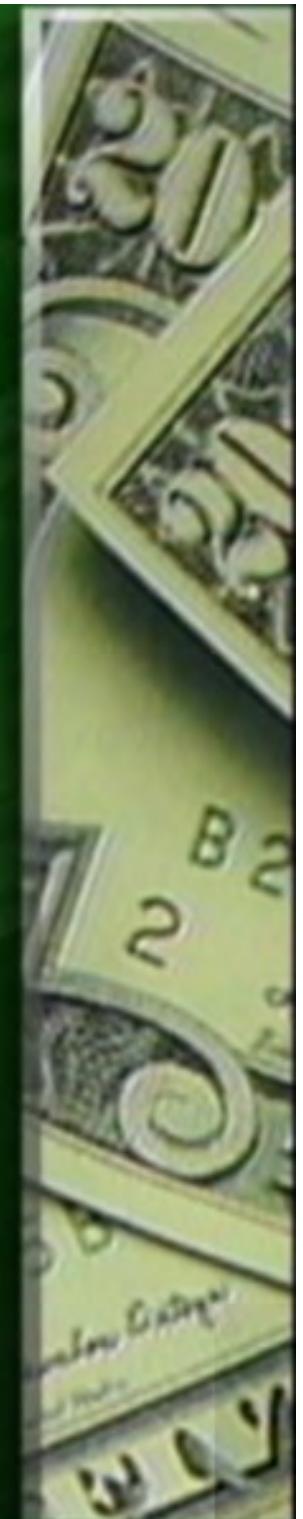
June 18-20

# How Do We Pick Leaders for the Local Church?

**P**• Popularity  
• Past  
• Politics  
• Pocketbook  
• Profession

## Favoring the rich...

1. Indicates impure motives (2-4)
2. Insults the poor (5-6a)
3. Indulges oppressors (6b-7)
4. Is selfish (8-11)



## *James 2:8-11 NIV*

- If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

# The Royal Law



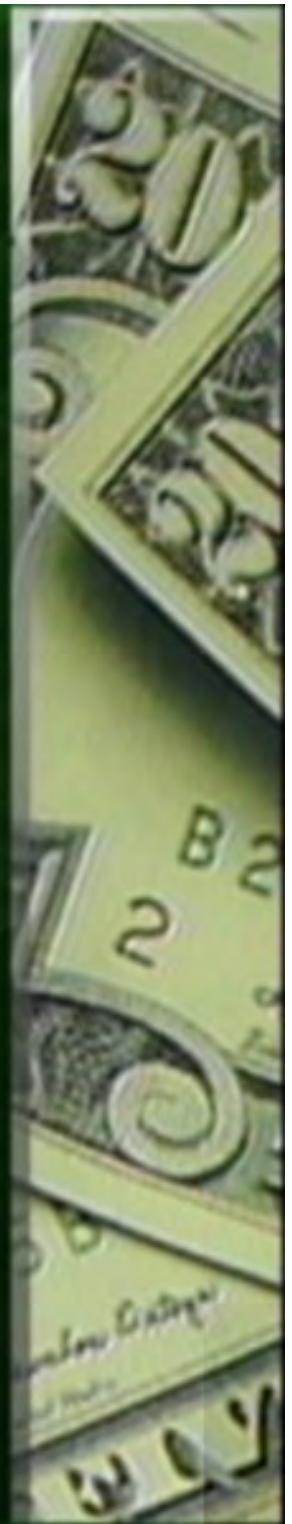
**"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but **love your neighbor as yourself**. I am the LORD"**  
**(Leviticus 19:18 NIV).**

# Red Behind You



## Favoring the rich...

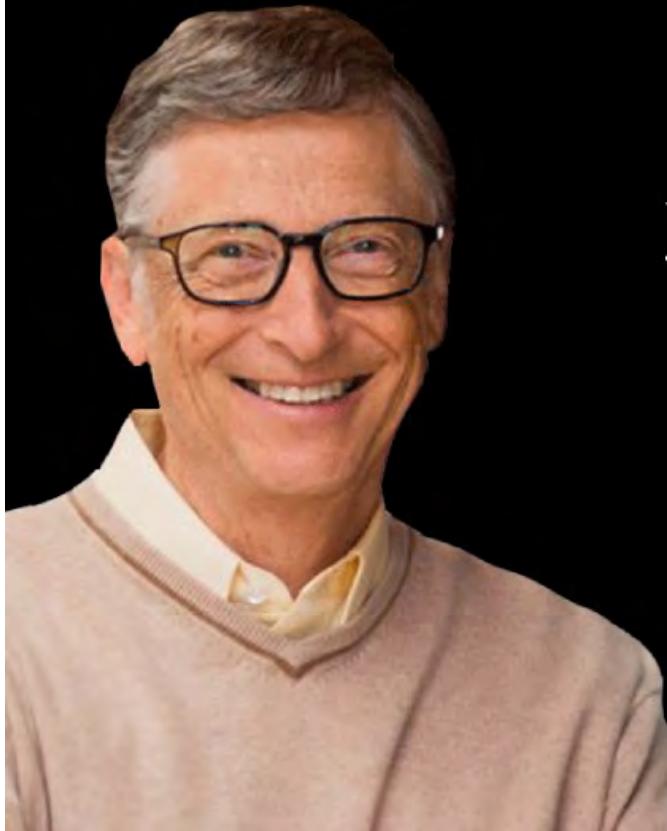
1. Indicates impure motives (2-4)
2. Insults the poor (5-6a)
3. Indulges oppressors (6b-7)
4. Is selfish (8-11)
5. Incurs God's judgment (12-13)



## *James 2:12-13 NIV*

- Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,  
13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

# Bill Gates



If you are born poor,  
it's not your mistake,  
but if you die poor,  
it's your mistake.

Do you agree?



WHY NOT  
FAVOR THE  
RICH?



The Main Idea:  
*Don't prefer the wealthy*  
when God prefers the needy



## Favoring the rich...

1. Indicates impure motives (2-4)
2. Insults the poor (5-6a)
3. Indulges oppressors (6b-7)
4. Is selfish (8-11)
5. Incurs God's judgment (12-13)





James 2:1

Don't favor  
the rich!

"My brothers, as believers  
in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
don't show favoritism."

**"God."**

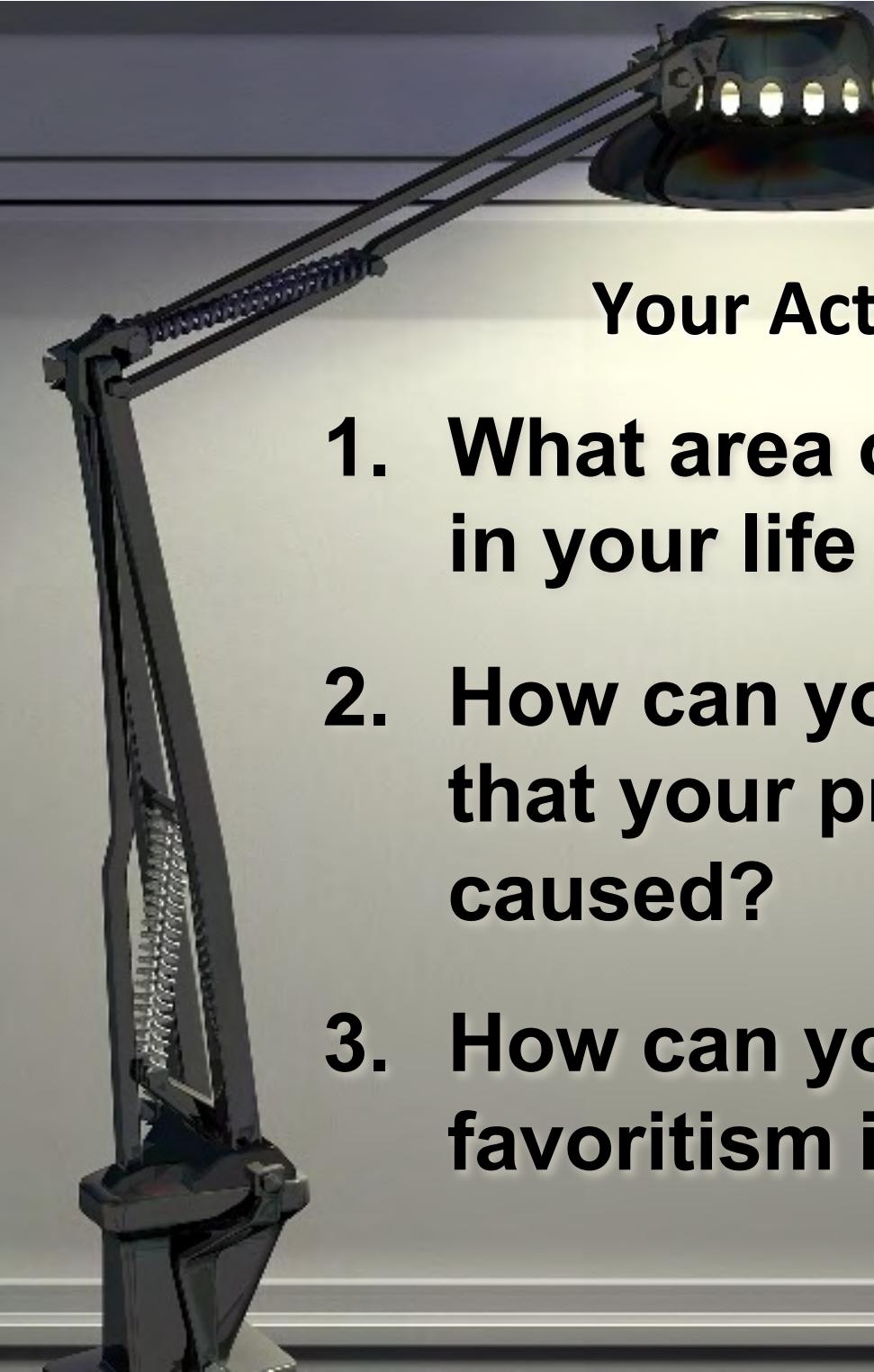
**"No synonyms found for God."**

# Barefoot Bill



# May I probe?

1. Do you treat people alike—rich or poor? Or do you give the wealthy special attention?
2. Whom do you invite for lunch or dinner? Is it always someone who's equal or better off than you financially?
3. Do you show kindness to those who can't reciprocate?
4. Do you love and serve the more needy in this church? Or is your time absorbed by the others?



## **Your Action Plan:**

- 1. What area of prejudice do you see in your life through this study?**
- 2. How can you resolve any problems that your prejudice may have caused?**
- 3. How can you avoid this kind of favoritism in the future?**

# James 2:1-13

- A. Faith is not a respecter of persons by separating rich and poor (2:1-4).
- B. Faith recognizes that those materially poor in this life will be rich in the next (2:5-7) .
- C. Faith responds equally to all men in obedience to the law which commands love of others as much as love for self (2:8-13) .

## Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Trials	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favoritism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Ultimately Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
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*Jerusalem*

*AD 44-47*

**James**

# True Faith

James 2:14-26

Adapted from Dan Bridges • Amman International Church  
[AmmanChurch.org](http://AmmanChurch.org) • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

**What do we do when the Bible  
seems to contradict itself???**



**James 2:24 “...a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.”**  
**(James)**



**Romans 3:28 “...a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”**  
**(Paul)**



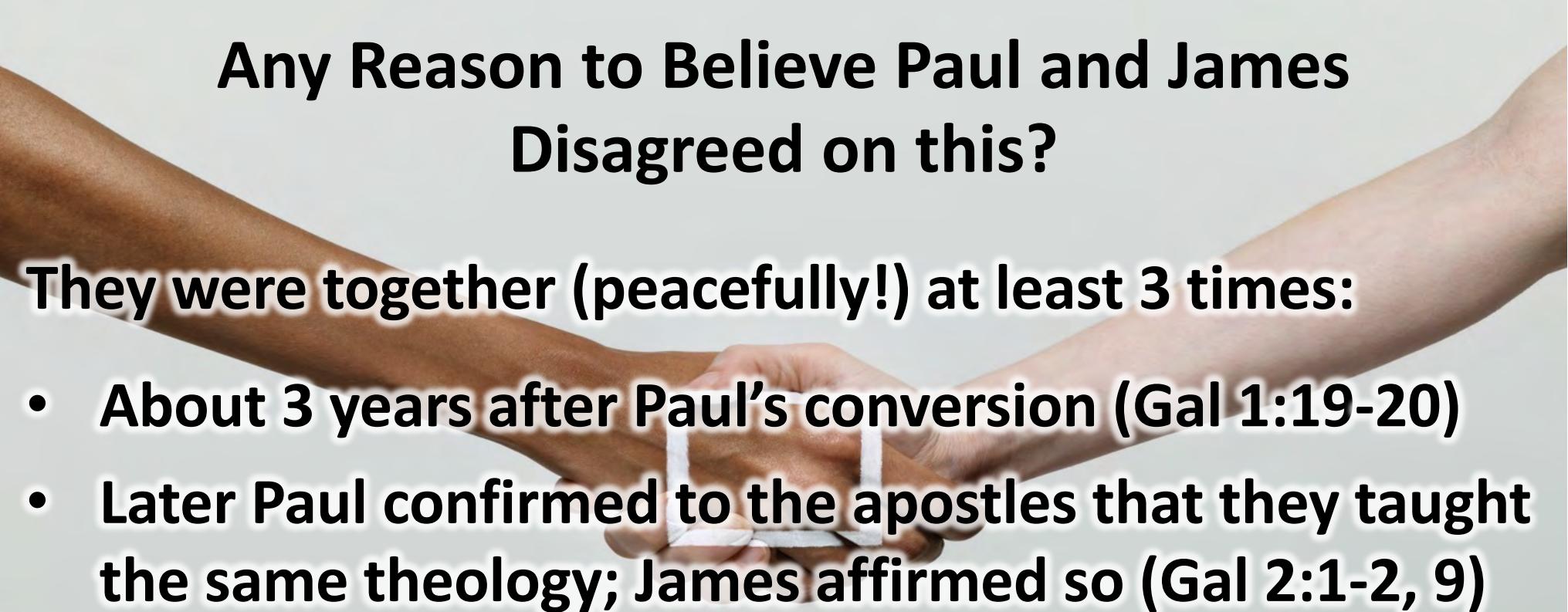
# Handling Seeming Contradictions

- We assume our understanding is the problem!
- We work to understand, trusting that God will open our eyes to the truth.
- Context, context, context!
- Don't let the problem distract us!



## For this Passage...

- Was a disagreement between them likely?
- Context of the passages:
  - Who were their audiences?
  - The point that the author is making
  - Definitions of terms (e.g. faith, justified)



## Any Reason to Believe Paul and James Disagreed on this?

**They were together (peacefully!) at least 3 times:**

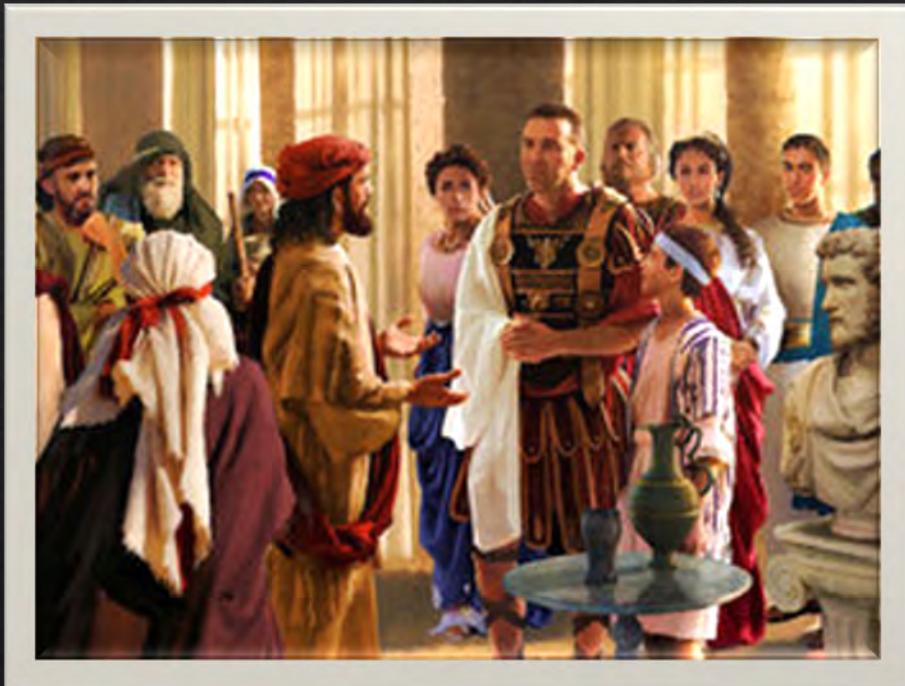
- About 3 years after Paul's conversion (Gal 1:19-20)
- Later Paul confirmed to the apostles that they taught the same theology; James affirmed so (Gal 2:1-2, 9)
- Just before Paul's arrest, he shared what God was doing among the Gentiles (Acts 21:17-20)

# Paul's Audience



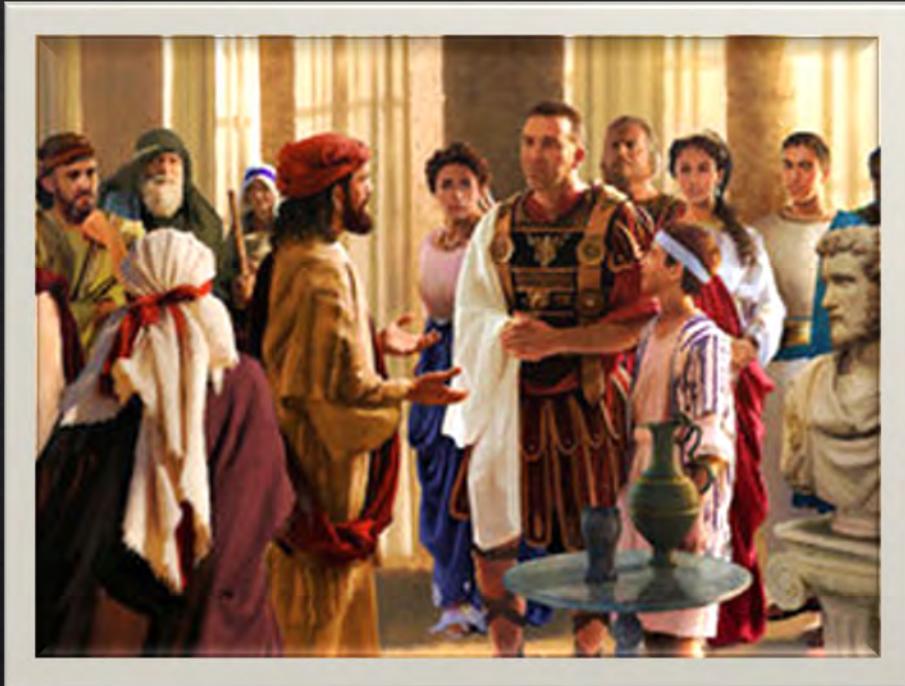
- **Gentiles who believed in Jesus as the Messiah**
- **Jews who were observing these Gentiles**

# Paul's Context



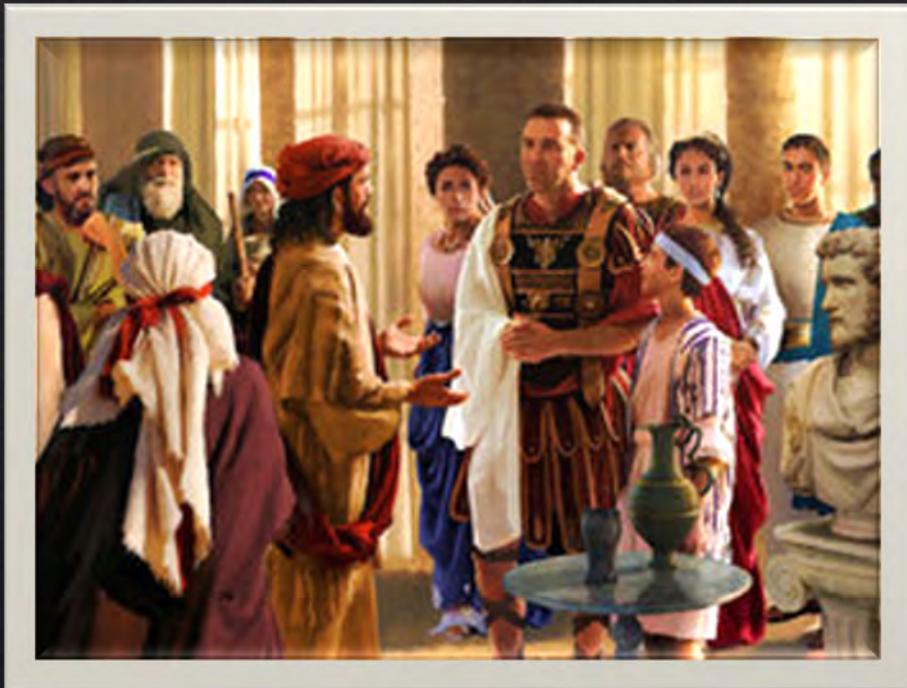
**Jews were telling Gentile believers that they needed to follow the Jewish law in order to be saved from sin.**

# Paul's Goal in Writing



**Paul wanted to convince both the Gentiles and the Jews that following the Jewish ceremonial law was not required for salvation.**

# Paul's Definition of Faith



**What would you say  
Paul's definition of faith  
was when he said that  
we are “justified by faith  
and not by works of the  
law”?**

# Paul's Definition of Faith



- Belief that all have sinned and deserve condemnation
- Trust in the death of Jesus as being sufficient to pay for sin

# James' Audience - Jews

- Importance of the creed (Shema)
- Believed in Jesus as the Messiah



# James' Context

James 2:1-13

These Jews were neglecting, among other things, the second commandment – to love your neighbor as yourself. As Jesus said, they were “neglecting the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy and faithfulness” (Matt 23:23)



# James' Goal in Writing

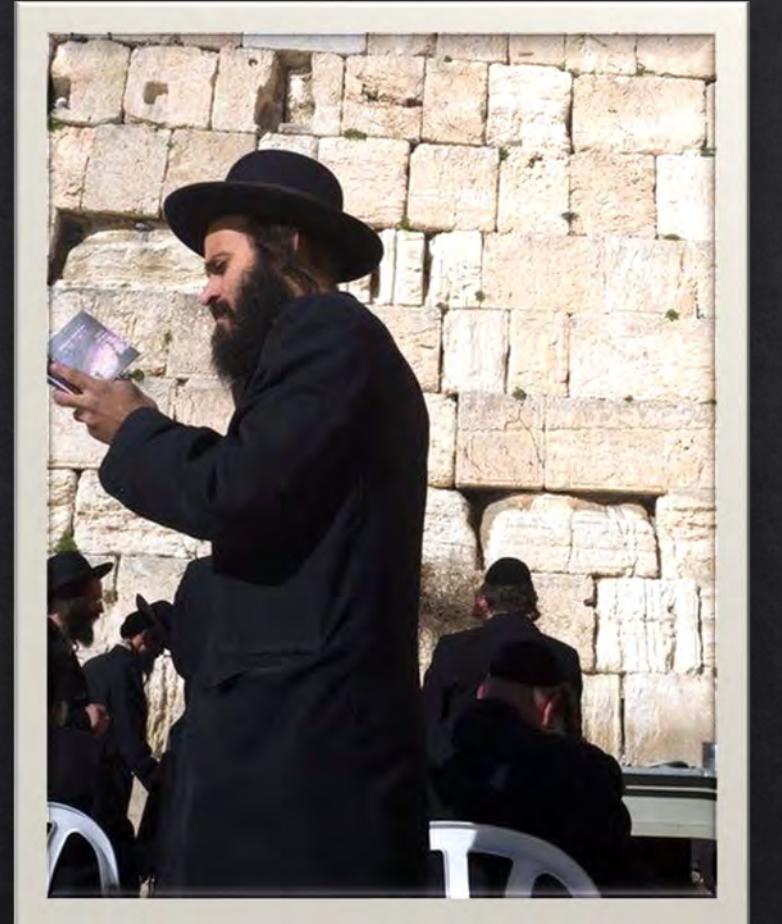
James wanted his audience to see that if they continued to neglect the second commandment, it showed that they weren't proving to follow Jesus – even if they claimed they were.



# James' Definition of Faith

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can **that faith** save him?

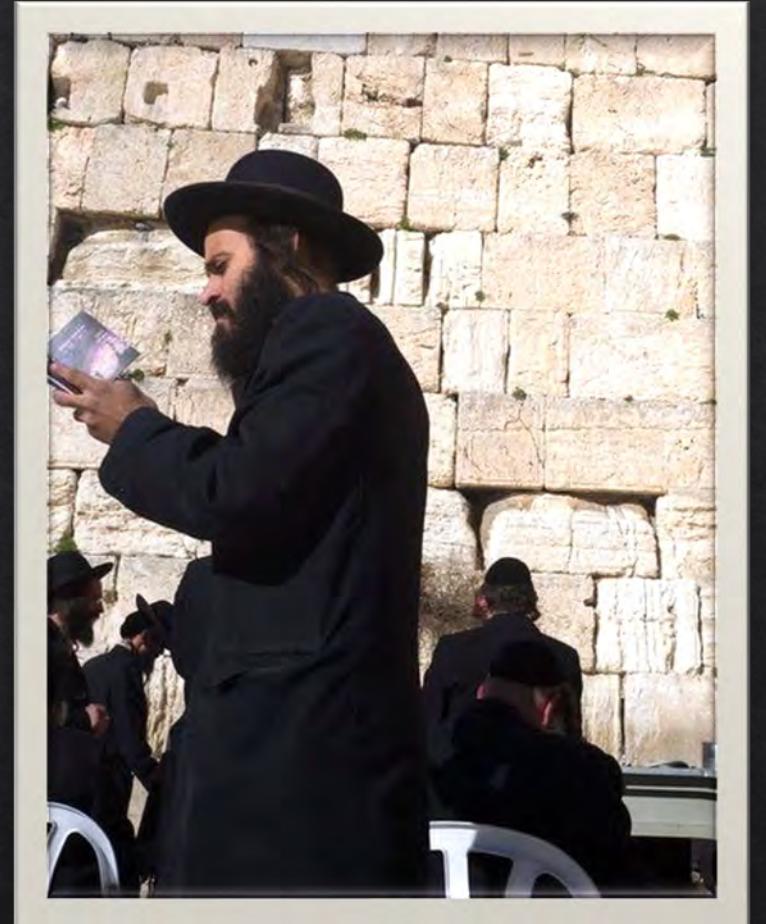
How would you say James is defining “faith” here?



# James' Definition of Faith

James seems to define  
“someone’s” faith as:

- Intellectual assent to the creed
- Intellectual assent to Jesus as the Messiah
- Absence of “works”



“Can that [type of] faith save him?” James 2:14

**James 2:24 “...a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.”**  
**(James)**



**Romans 3:28 “...a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”**  
**(Paul)**



# The Danger for Us...



We can get so caught up in the seeming contradiction that we forget to see what James has to say to us!



James is not defining the terms of salvation – he is defining what **true, living faith** really is!

## James 2:14-17

**14** What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

## James 2:14-17

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James agrees that we are saved by faith. What he is talking about is the definition of true, saving faith.

# Things James Was Concerned About

- People not living by the Word (1:22)
- Widows, orphans and poor being neglected and mistreated (1:27, 2:1-13)
- Rich oppressing the poor (2:6)
- People competing for importance (3:1-18)
- People cursing each other & fighting (3:10, 4:1)
- People living arrogantly (4:6-17)



# How do you know if you have a living faith?

- First... A Word of Warning
- Three Characteristics of a Living Faith

## A Word of Warning...

**“You believe that God is one; you do well.  
Even the demons believe—and shudder!”**

**James 2:19**

## Demonic Faith

- Demons believe in God (accurately!)
- Demons respect the power and greatness of God
- Demons are afraid of God
- Demons hate God

## “Shuddering Obedience”

“He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’”

Matthew 25:24-25

## Demonic Faith

**We can alter our behavior and live out good, moral lives because we are afraid of what God will do to us if we don't.**

## Jesus' Criticism of Religious Practices

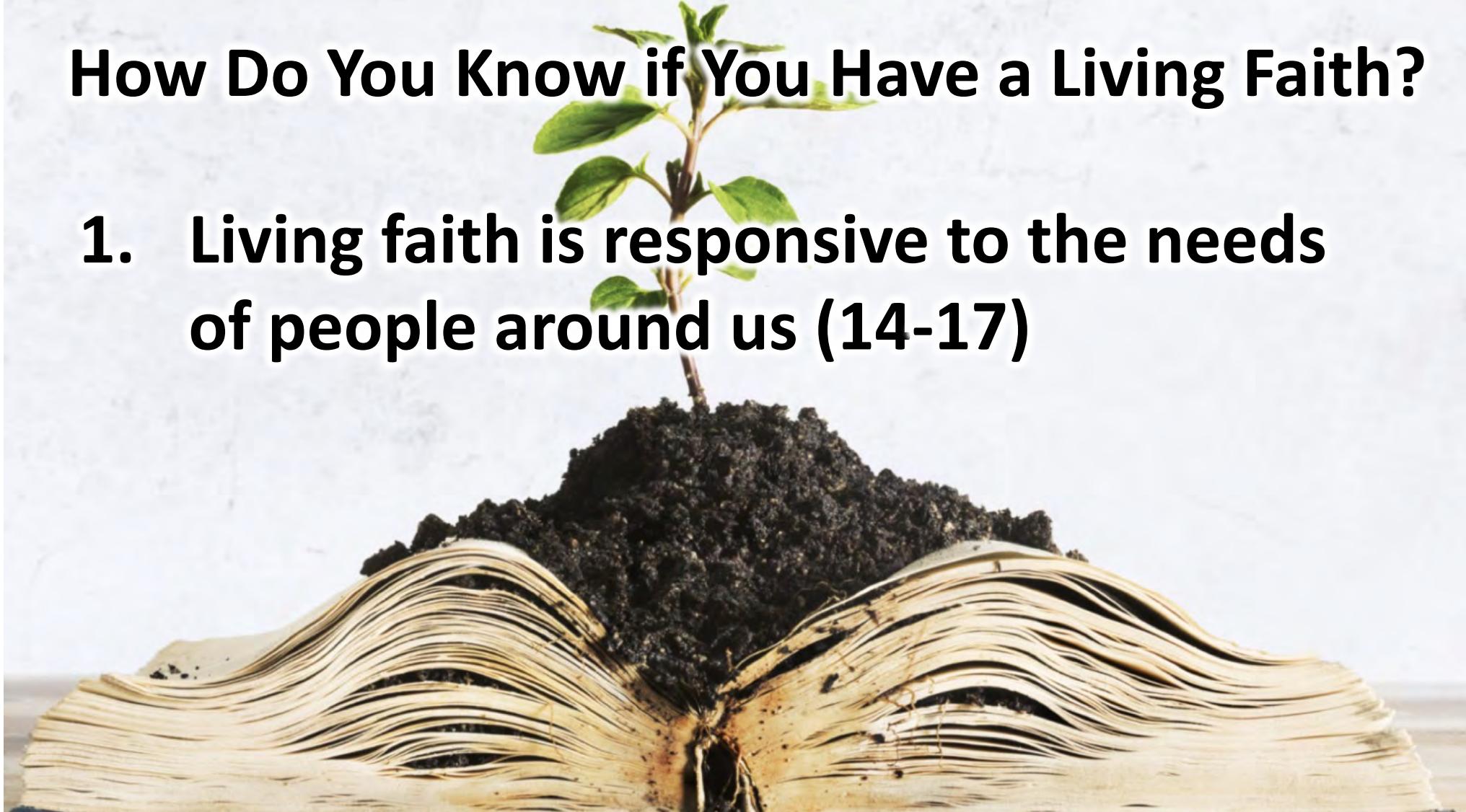
**“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” Matthew 23:23**

## Lesson from the Demons

**You can have good theology and live a moral life and still not have a living faith that will save you...**

# **How Do You Know if You Have a Living Faith?**

- 1. Living faith is responsive to the needs of people around us (14-17)**



## James 2:14-17

**<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**

# True, Spirit-Initiated Love

One of the most basic fruits that should be evident in any believer's life is **love**.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

## 1 John 3:16-18

**<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

# How Do You Know if You Have a Living Faith?

1. Living faith is responsive to the needs of people around us (14-17)
2. Living faith is responsive to the commands of God – out of love (21-23)

## James 2:21-24

?

**21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.**

## James 2:21-24

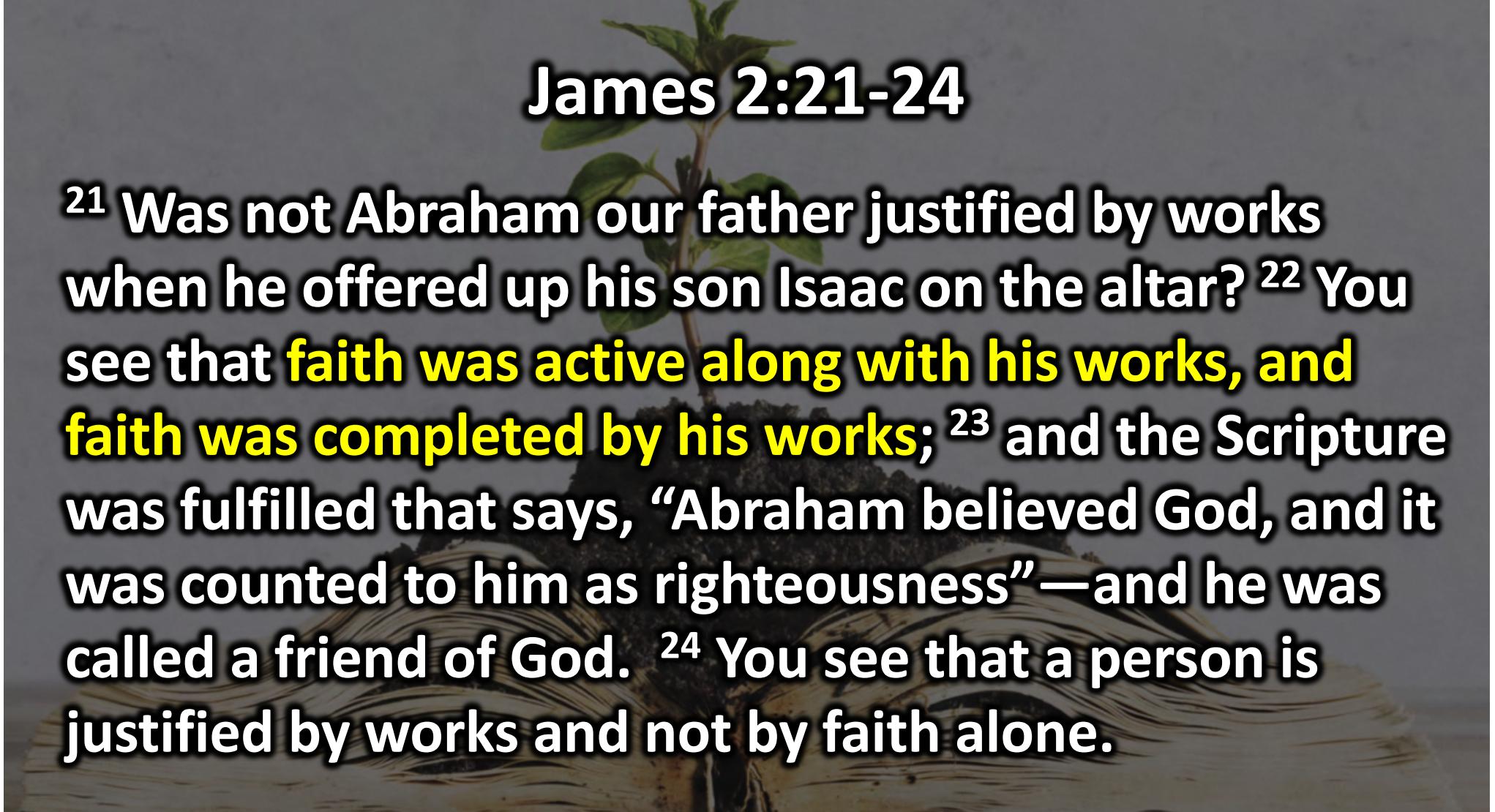
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**Genesis 22**

**Genesis 15**

## Genesis 15:4-6

**4 An** **Abraham was declared righteous (justified)**  
**before God before Isaac was even born.**  
**man** ~~shall not be your heir, your very own son shall be~~  
**your heir.” 5 And he brought him** **Remember This!**  
**“Look toward heaven, and number the** **stars, if you**  
**are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So**  
**shall your offspring be.” 6 And he believed the Lord,**  
**and he counted it to him as righteousness.**



## James 2:21-24

<sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works**; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

## Genesis 22:1-3

**1** After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, “**Abraham!**” And he said, “**Here I am.**” **2** He said, “**Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.**” **3 So Abraham rose early in the morning... and went to the place of which God had told him.**

**Why did Abraham go???**

## Genesis 22:12

**12** He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for **now I know that you fear God**, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

**Abraham went because he “feared” God!  
(He loved God more than his son!)**

## Genesis 22:16-18

**16 “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your offspring shall inherit the gates of the nations.”**

**Why did God repeat his promise? Because Abraham's faith had been “proven” – it had passed the test!**

## James 2:21-24

**21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that faith was active along with his works, and **faith was completed by his works**; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as called a friend of God. **justified by works** and

Abraham’s faith was “proven”, “justified” or “completed” by his obedience.

## James 2:21-24

**21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and **he was called a friend of God.** 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.**

## James 2:21-24

**A living faith is characterized by friendship with God:**

- **Longs for relationship with God**
- **Sees the loveliness of God**
- **Wants to be with God**

# How Do You Know if You Have a Living Faith?

1. Living faith is responsive to the needs of people around us (14-17)
2. Living faith is responsive to the commands of God – out of love (21-24)
3. Living faith has changed allegiance from the world to God (25)

## James 2:25

**25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?**

## Joshua 2:8-11

**8** Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof **9** and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.

## Joshua 2:8-11

**Rahab went from fear to faith – she changed her loyalty from her gods to Yahweh – the God of Israel. She then risked her life to protect the spies.**

**and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. -- And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.**

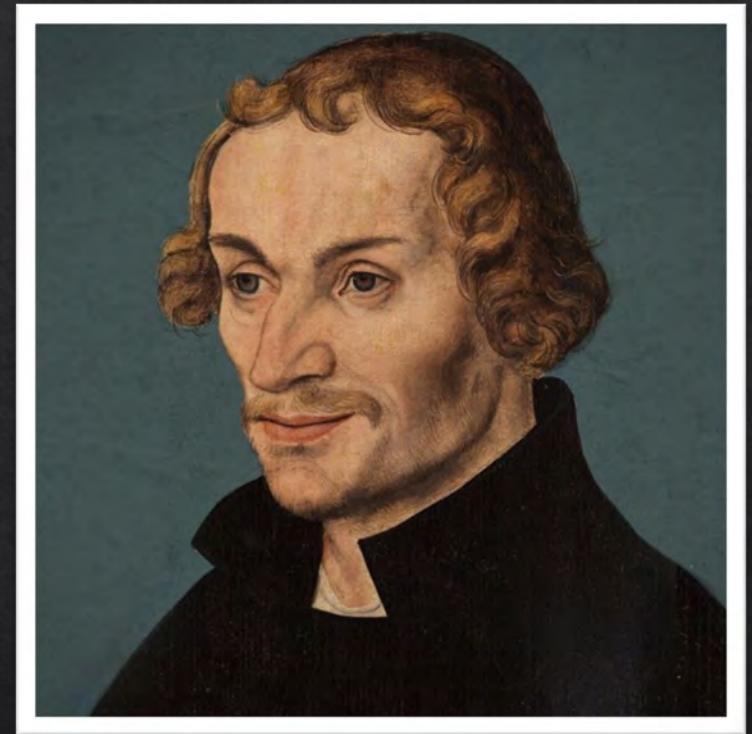
# How Do You Know if You Have a Living Faith?

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# Philipp Melanchthon

(Contemporary of Martin Luther)

**“We are saved by faith  
alone, but not by a faith  
which remains alone!”**



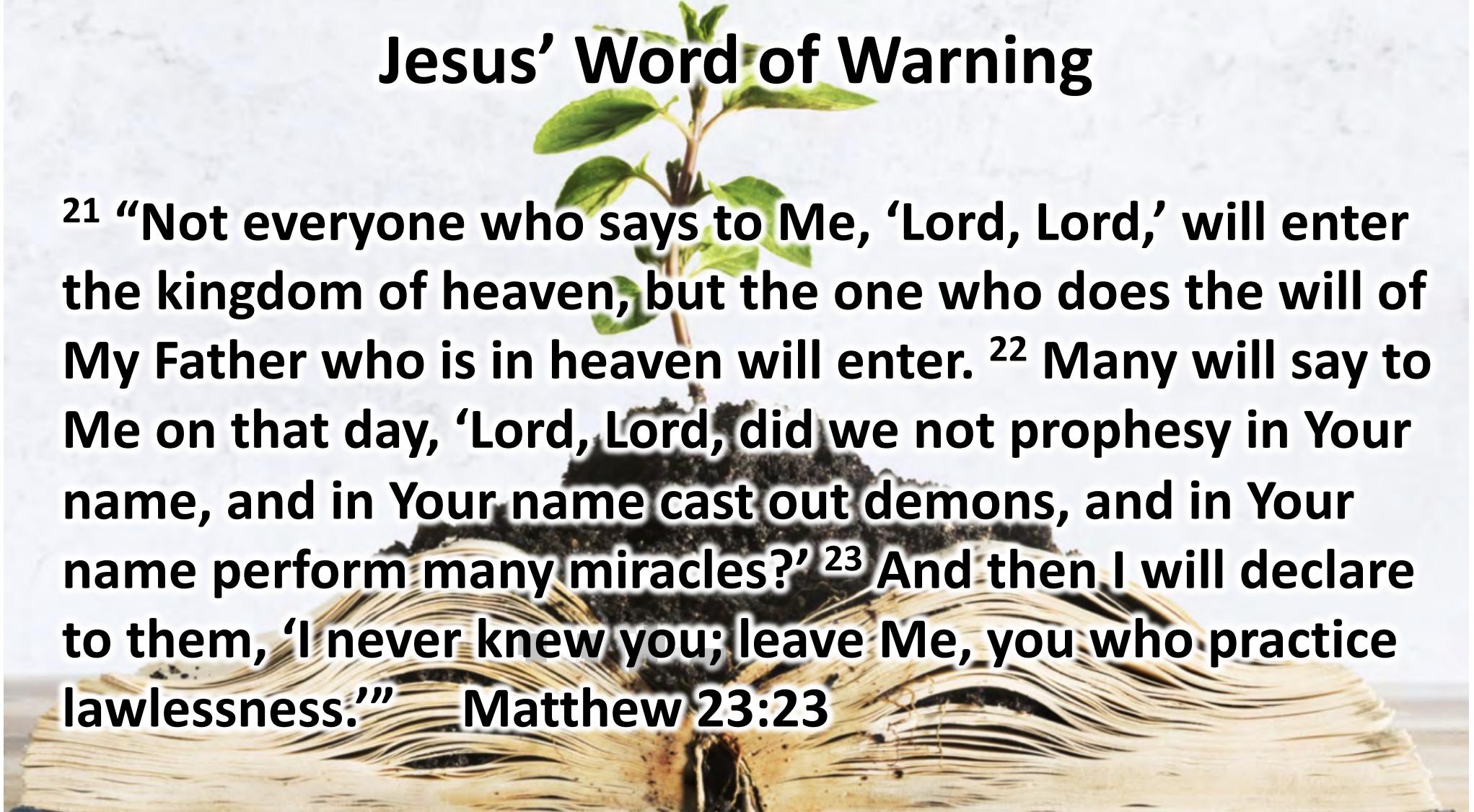
James says...

**“For as the body apart  
from the spirit is dead,  
so also faith apart from  
works is dead.”**

James 2:26

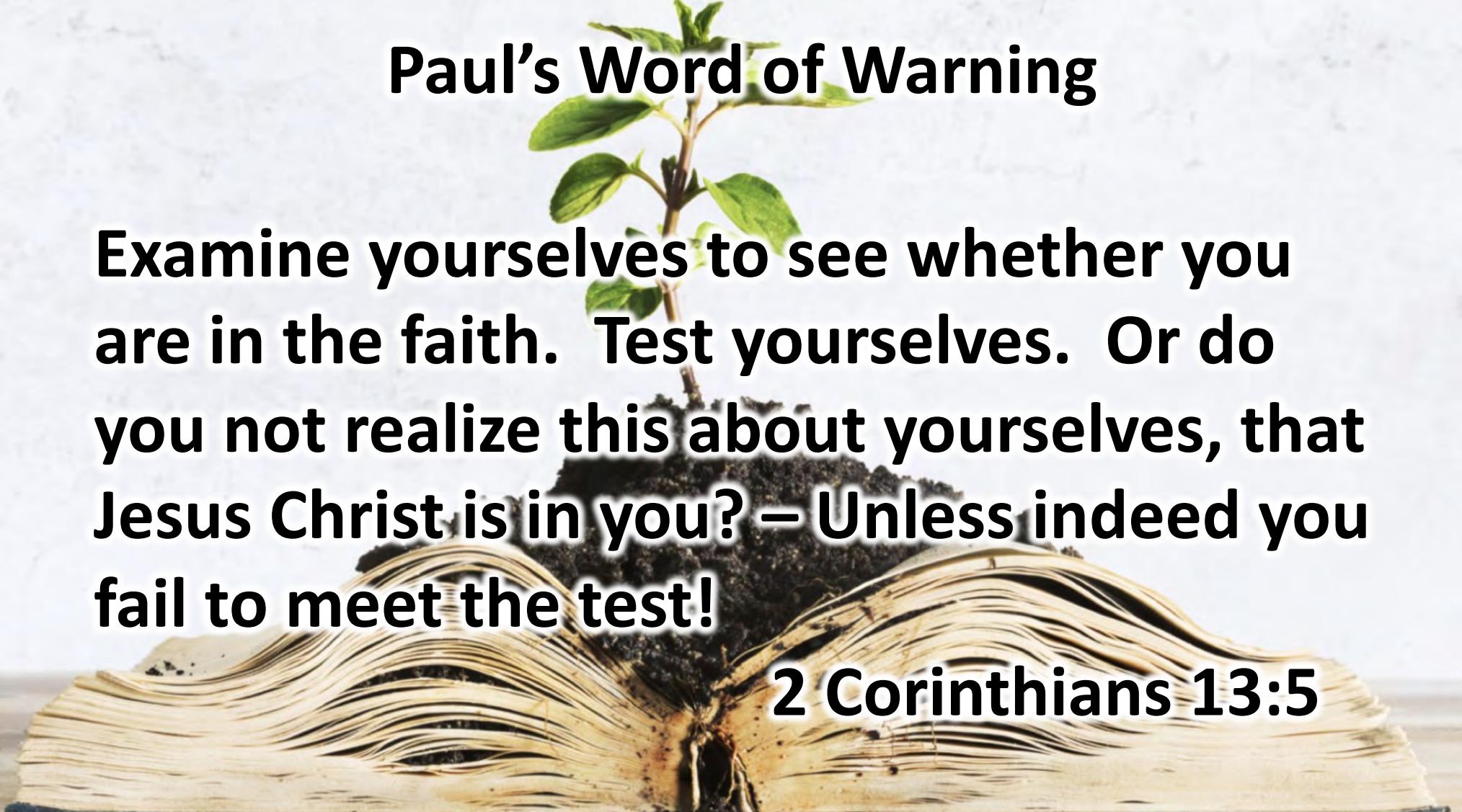


# Jesus' Word of Warning



**21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’” Matthew 23:23**

## **Paul's Word of Warning**



**Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – Unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

**James 2:24 “...a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.”**  
**(James)**



**Romans 3:28 “...a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”**  
**(Paul)**



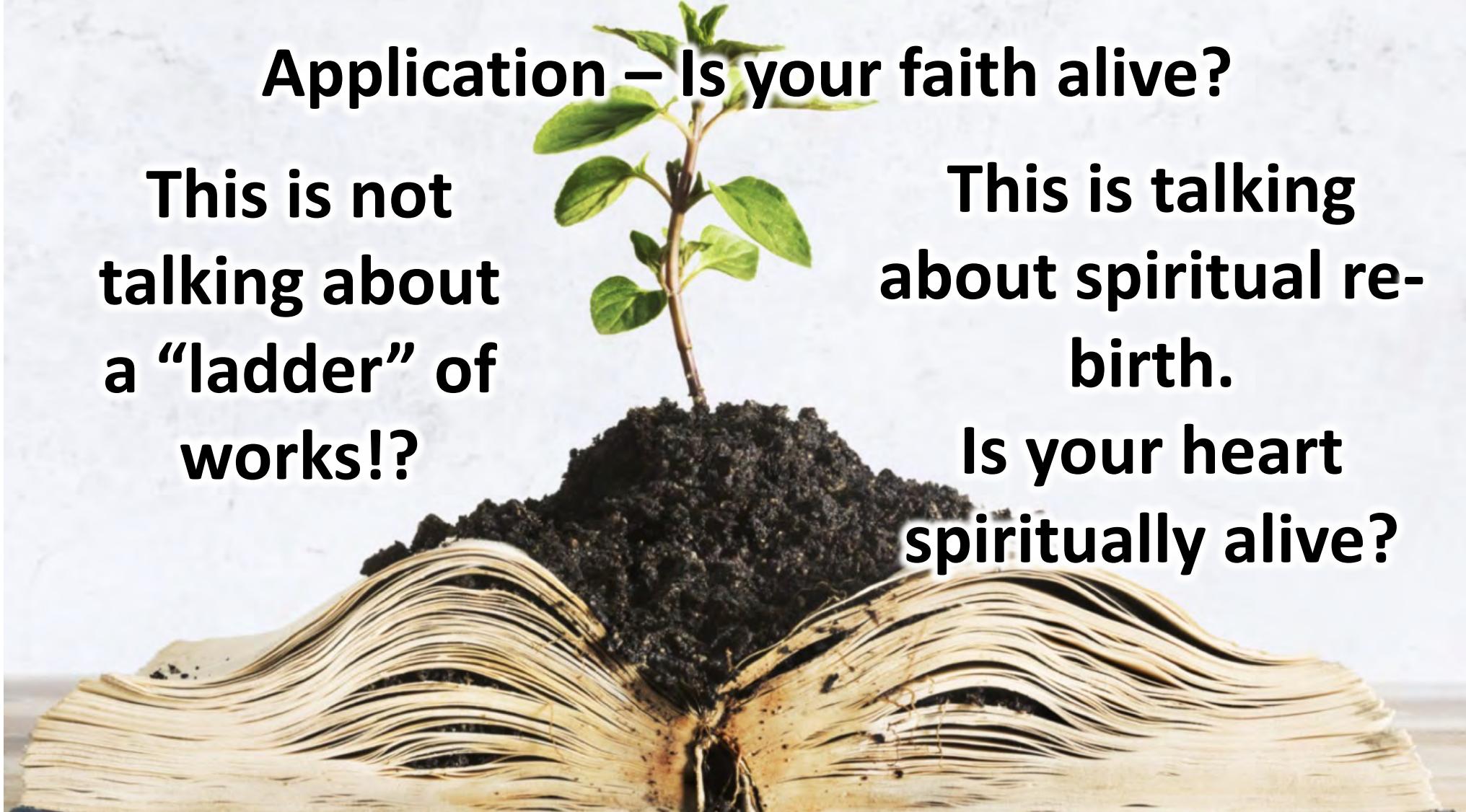
## **Application – Is your faith alive?**

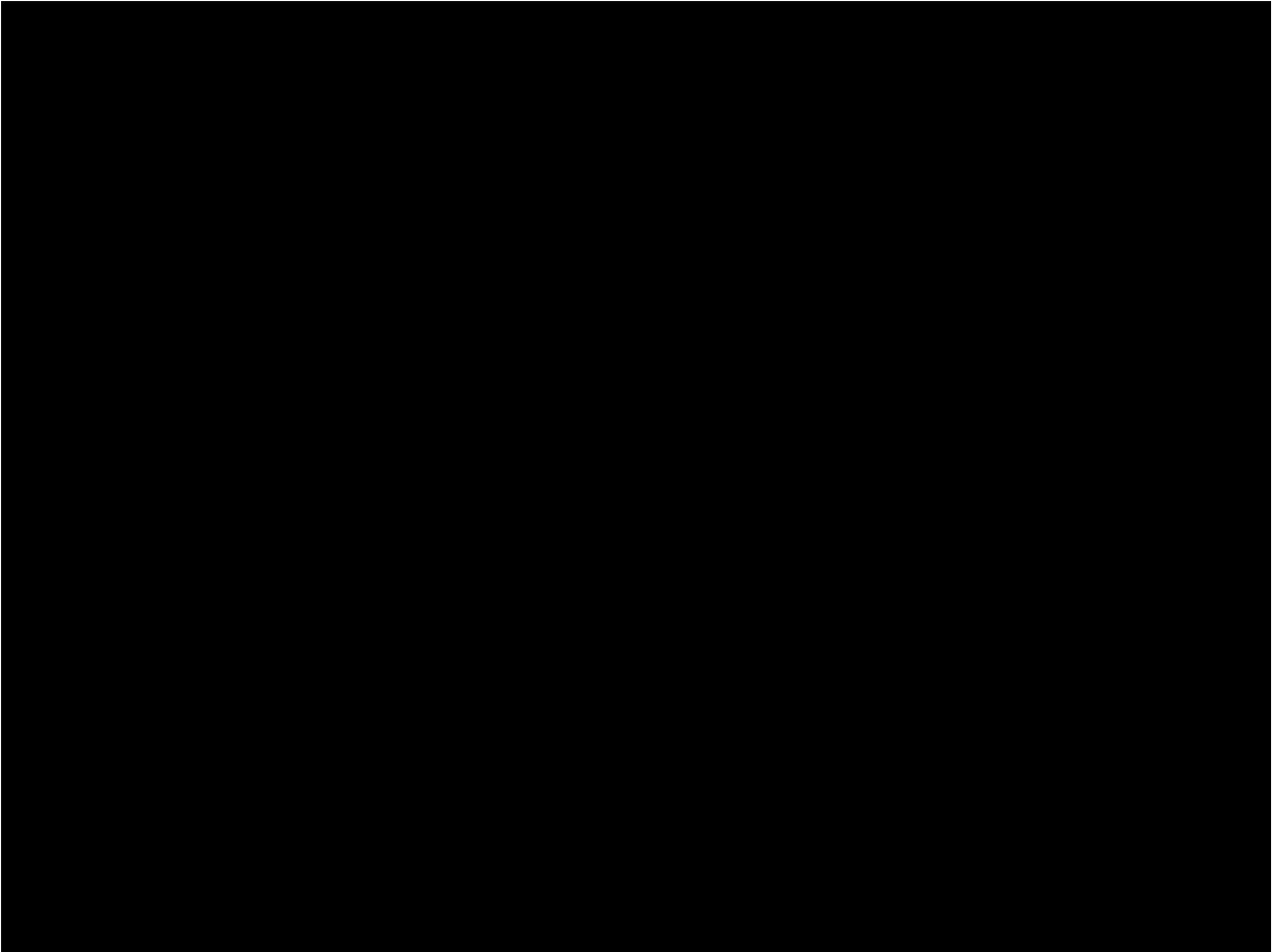
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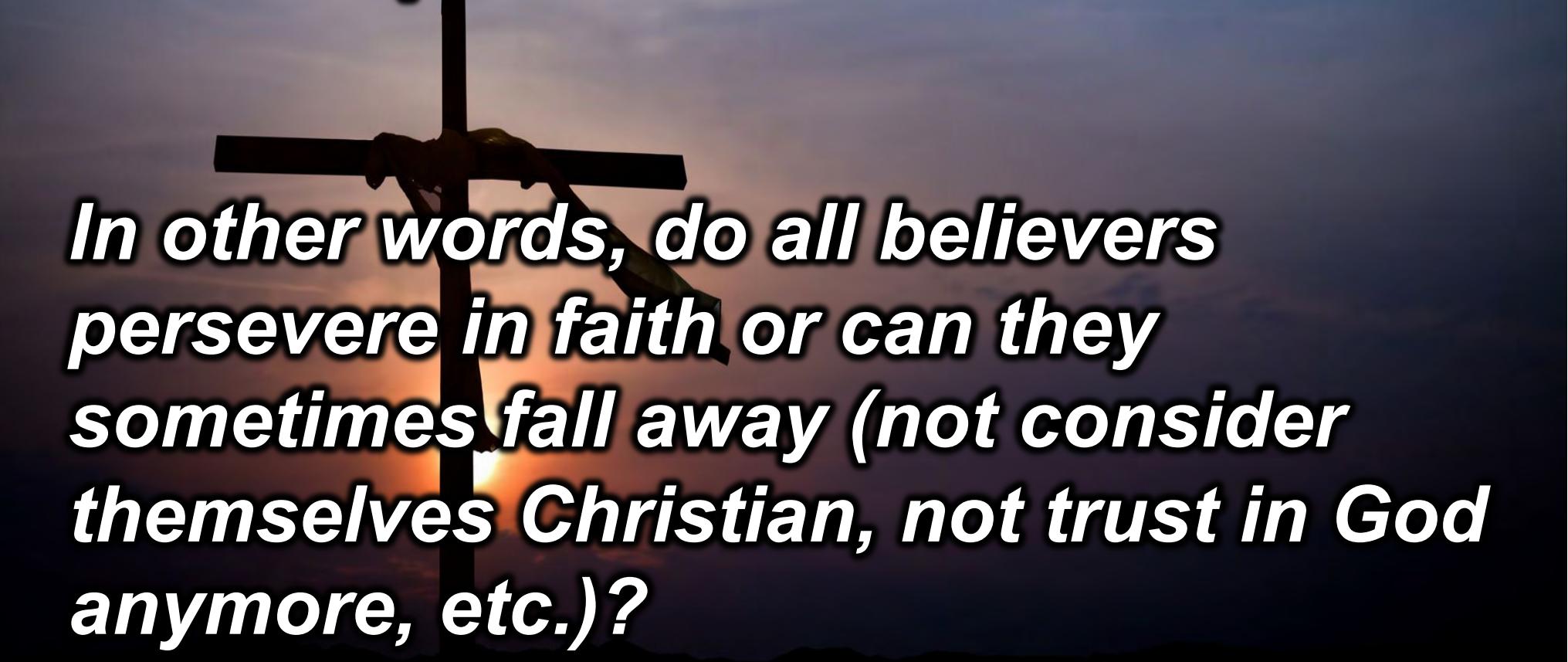
## **Application – Is your faith alive?**

**This is not  
talking about  
a “ladder” of  
works!?**

**This is talking  
about spiritual re-  
birth.  
Is your heart  
spiritually alive?**







***Do all true Christians die in fellowship with the Lord?***

***In other words, do all believers persevere in faith or can they sometimes fall away (not consider themselves Christian, not trust in God anymore, etc.)?***

***What is the key issue here?***

# What is meant by “perseverance of the saints”?

“I assert...that the perseverance by which we persevere in Christ even to the end is the gift of God”

“It is uncertain whether anyone has received this gift so long as he is still alive”  
—referring to the gift of being elect and finally persevering

Both quotes from Augustine, *Anti-Pelagian Works*, 15:172

# The Synod of Dort (1619) supported perseverance

**“By such enormous sins, however, they very highly offend God, incur a deadly guilt, grieve the Holy Spirit, interrupt the exercise of faith, very grievously wound their consciences, and sometimes lose the sense of God’s favor, **for a time, until on their returning into the right way by serious repentance, the light of God’s fatherly countenance again shines upon them.”****

Philip Schaff, "The Canons of the Synod of Dort," in *The Creeds of Christendom: The Evangelical Protestant Creed* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985), 3:593 (5.5)

# The Westminster Confession (1646) supported perseverance

**“They whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.”**

Philip Schaff, "The Westminster Confession of Faith," in *History of the Christian Church*, 8 vols. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1910), 3:636 (17.1)

# Reformed Theologian John Gerstner supports perseverance

**“Theologically speaking, it refers to the fifth point of the Calvinistic doctrinal system that true Christians will continue in faith and holiness forever. Thus Jonathan Edwards finds the very definition of a Christian to be, according to John 8:31, one who continues in the Word of Christ.”**

John Gerstner, "Perseverance," in *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Everett F. Harrison (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1960), 403-4

# Perseverance versus Free Grace

"Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. <sup>11</sup>For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ"  
(2 Peter 1:10-11)

Promised to Overcomers:

"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown"  
(Revelation 3:11 NLT).

# Theology of James

## I. Christ, the Lord of Community

- A. **Christology:** Jesus is our glorious Lord and Judge (2:1).
- B. **The Law:** The Mosaic Law has been fulfilled in Christ, but believers should obey the law of Christ.
- C. **Last Days:** Jesus is coming again and will judge all people.

# Theology of James

## II. Christian Living In Community

- A. **Sin, Suffering and Submission:** By God's sovereign grace, suffering is a joyful opportunity for us to be molded into maturity.
- B. **Faith and Works:** Obedience to Jesus' moral law is not obedience apart from faith.
- C. **Wisdom:** Wisdom is God's gift to believers in community for peace in times of adversity.
- D. **Prayer:** Prayer must be based on faith in God so believers will have needs met for wisdom, material needs, and physical needs.

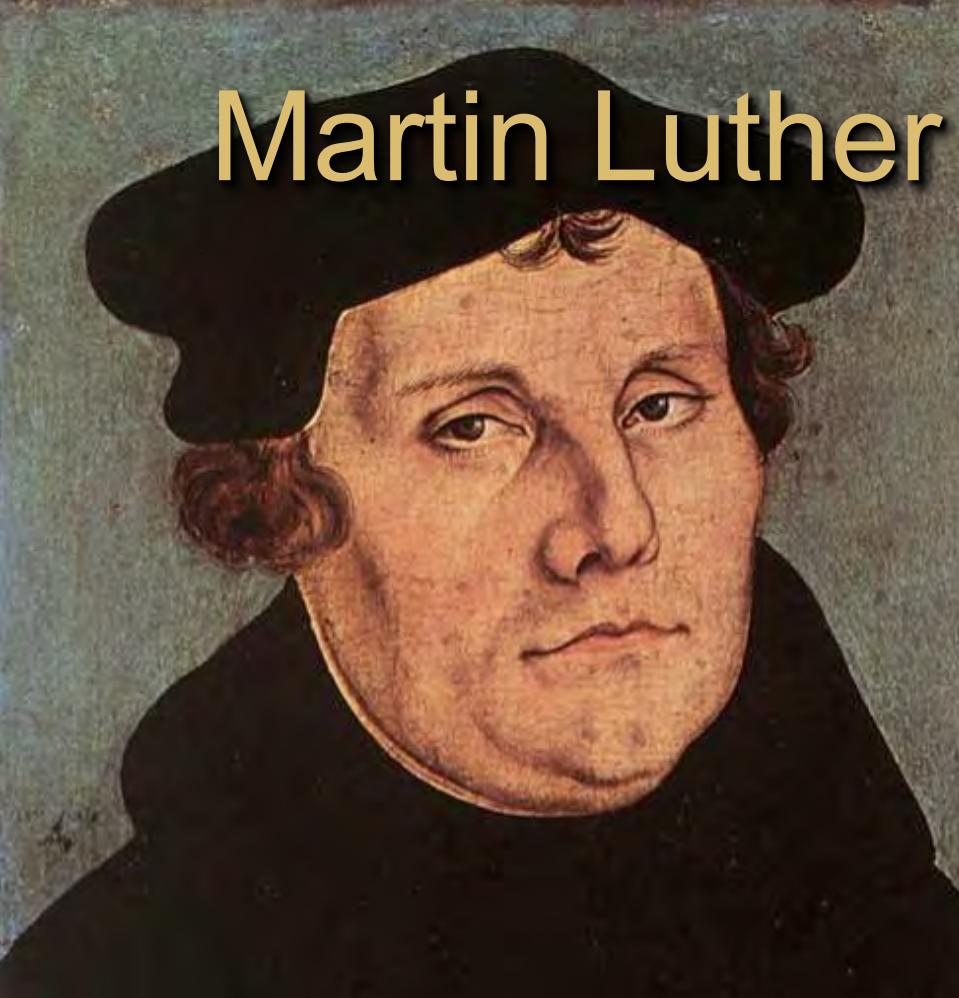
# The Apparent Contradiction Between Paul and James on Faith and Works

**"For we maintain  
that a man is  
justified by faith  
apart from  
observing the law"**  
**(Romans 3:28)**

**"In the same way,  
faith by itself, if it  
is not  
accompanied by  
action, is dead"**  
**(James 2:17)**

**"...a man is not  
justified by  
observing the law  
but by faith in  
Jesus Christ..."**  
**(Galatians 2:16)**

**"You see that a  
person is justified  
by what he does  
and not by faith  
alone"**  
**(James 2:24)**

A portrait of Martin Luther, a German monk, who is considered the father of the Protestant Reformation. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, textured robe and a black beret. His hair is visible at the bottom of the beret. He has a serious, contemplative expression. The background is a mottled grey.

# Martin Luther and James

**James "contradicted" Paul**  
**James is "a right strawy epistle"**  
**James shouldn't be in the Bible**

# Two Proposed Ways to Reconcile Romans 3 and James 2

1. James wrote this to criticize Paul's teaching on faith
2. James wrote before Paul began his writing career.

\* Some scholars (Davids, Adamson, Hiebert, and Kristemaker) say James is an early book. James probably draws more from oral tradition than other NT books, so he reflects early church beliefs which accounts for the ethical, rather than theological focus. Still, other scholars suggest a later date and others even claim a two-stage development.

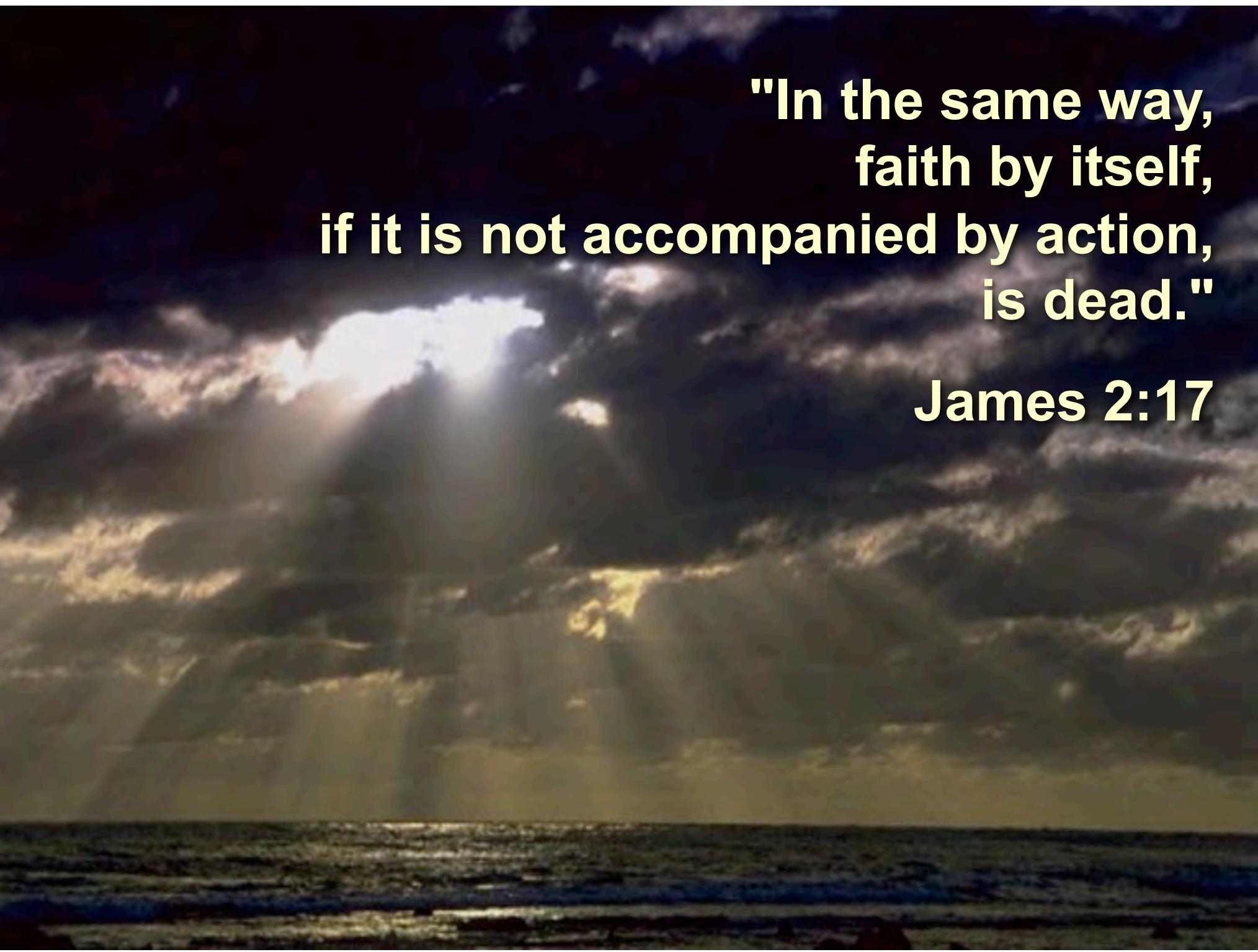
# Overview of 2:14-26

## 2:14-26 Faith and Deeds: Theological Unity

2:14-18 James's Main Concern: Faith that Works

2:19-26 3 Examples: Demons, Abraham, Rahab

From the demonstration of love through equal treatment, James calls them to demonstrate faith by extending practical and tangible assistance to those in need. He gives examples of true faith demonstrated in good deeds. Idle faith that does not reveal itself in works is hypocritical, unproductive and dead.

A wide-angle photograph of a dramatic sky. The upper half is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with bright, sunlit areas creating a dramatic contrast. The lower half shows a dark, choppy ocean. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

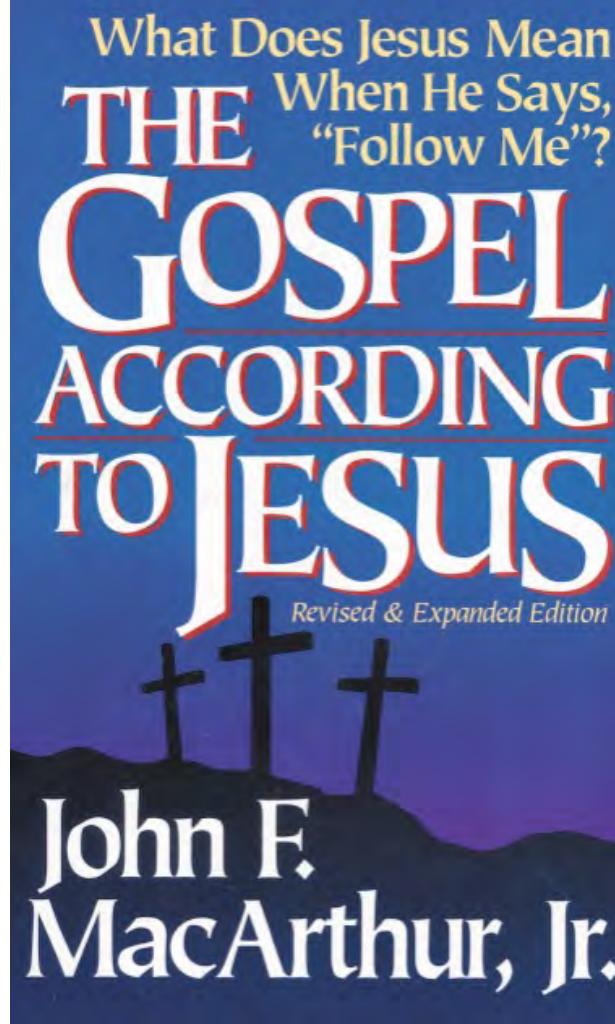
**"In the same way,  
faith by itself,  
if it is not accompanied by action,  
is dead."**

**James 2:17**

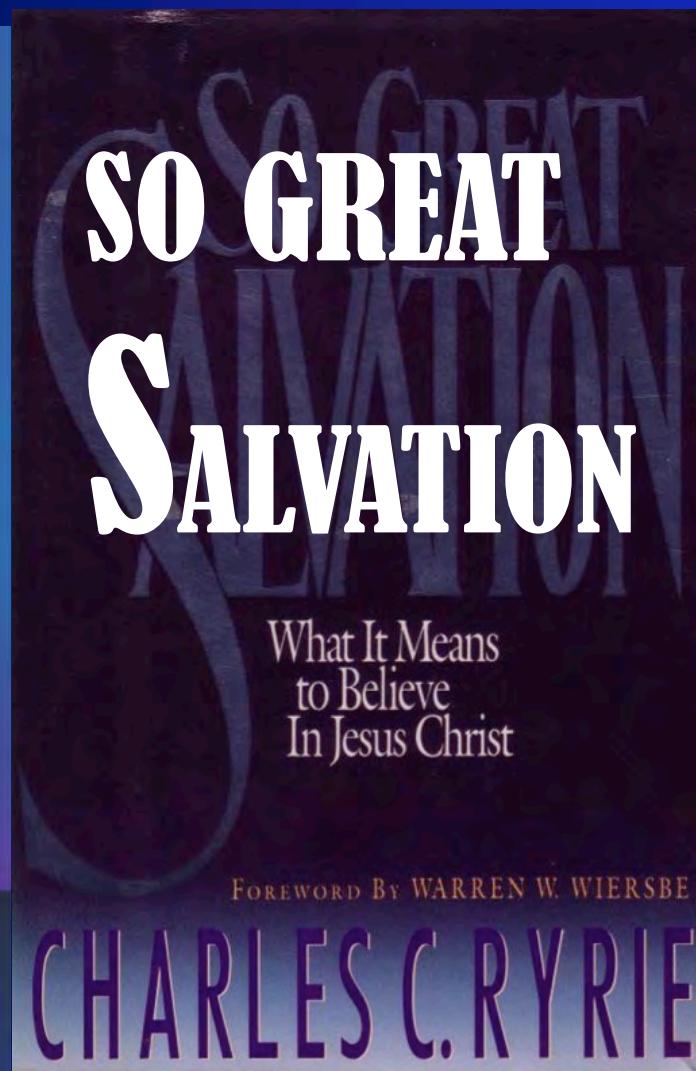
# The Lordship Salvation Debate

Accept Christ as...

**Savior & Lord**

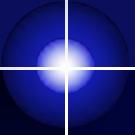


**Savior then Lord**



**Savior alone**





# If we are justified by faith alone, then what is the role of works?

- Paul addresses one question: How is salvation experienced?
- By faith alone (Romans 3:28)
- simple belief
- James answers a different question: How is true and saving faith recognized?
- *By faith's fruits (James 2:14-26)*
- *Belief simply shown through works*

# Romans Versus James

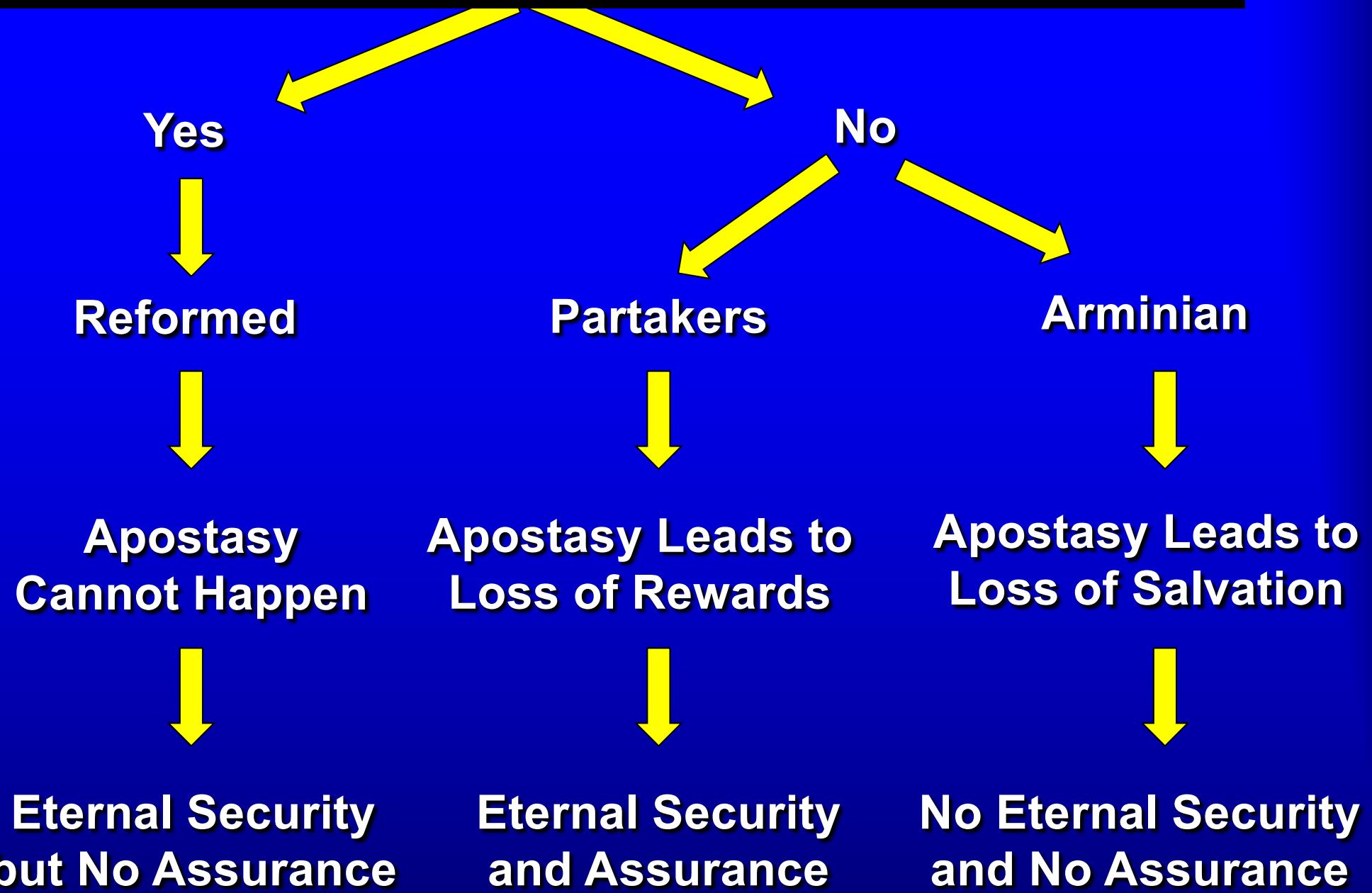
Book	Romans	James
Author	Paul	James
Date	A.D. 56	A.D. 44-48
Justification is a	technical term	non-technical term
Justification is before	God (vertical)	Man (horizontal)
The faith is	at beginning of salvation	after salvation
Emphasis is upon	faith	works

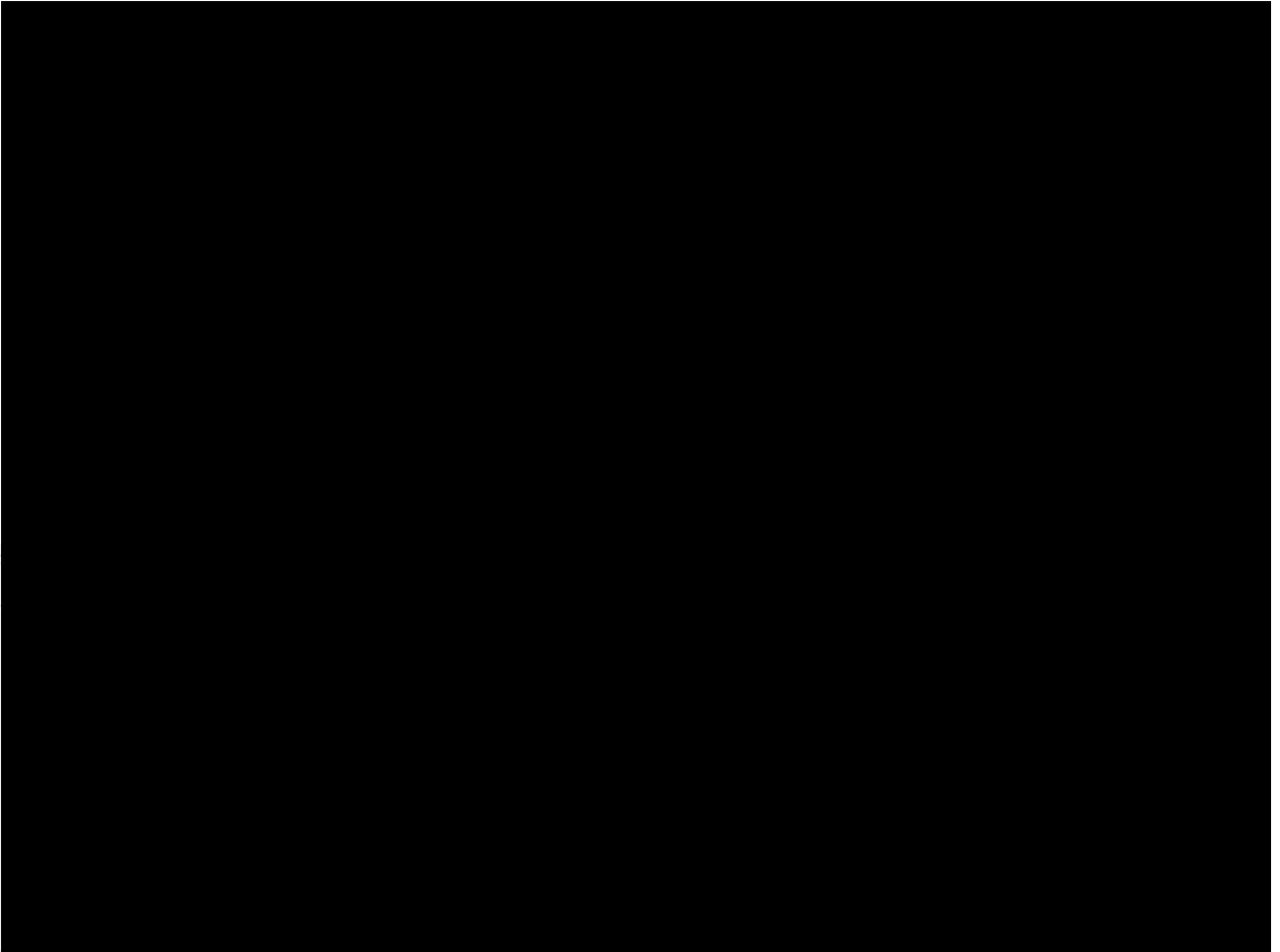
# The Main Idea of James 2:14-26

Others see  
genuine faith in  
works!

# Will each genuine Christian persevere in faithfulness at death?

274i





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