

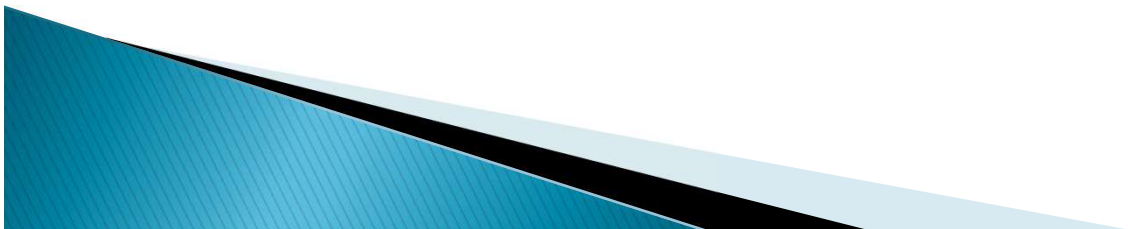
# The Epistle of James: Living One's Faith

- Living One's Faith is an excellent approach to the letter
- This includes:
  - Living my faith in the midst of trials from without and temptations from within
  - Living my faith in relation to the word of God
  - Living my faith in relation to our fellow man
  - Living my faith by understanding that pleasing faith works obedience
  - Living my faith in relation to the use of our tongues
  - Living my faith in relation to the world
  - Living my faith in prayer and compassion



# The Epistle of James: Living One's Faith

- Living my faith starts with
  - The right relationship with God which is only through Jesus Christ
  - The righteousness of God which is by faith
- Living my faith requires
  - The right attitudes
- Living my faith is seen in
  - My words
  - My deeds
- As we go through this letter, take intermittent attitude checks



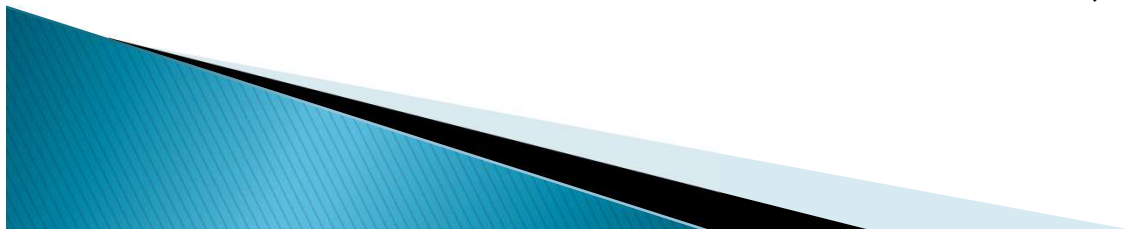
# Living my faith in relation to temptation

- Verses 13-16
  - Verses 2-12 – trials from without
  - Now another obstacle to faithfulness – temptation brought about by own lusts
- No man must say I am tempted by God
  - Not only is God not the direct cause of temptation, but He is not responsible for it in even a remote sense
  - Temptation to do evil is neither from nor by the Father
- Can God be tempted by evil?
  - No
- The word “tempt” can mean trial like a test (vs.2-12)
  - God does test men, for example Genesis 22:1
- Here in vs.13-16, it is temptation to do evil, solicitation to do evil



# Living my faith in relation to temptation

- Every man = universal
- Recognize the true source of temptation
- Temptation comes when:
  - Drawn away
    - By own desires (lusts) = strong desire
  - And enticed = to bait, figuratively to trap by enticing delights
- Drawn away by own lusts
  - Drawn away from place of safety, from what is good
- Who is responsible?
  - My own lusts, strong desires
- Enticed
  - Attracted and now offered a fulfilment, thus tempted



# Living my faith in relation to temptation

- When desire conceives, it gives birth to sin
- Strong desire, drawn away, enticed, then conception that gives birth to sin
  - Conception when our will yields to the enticement
- Sin did not spring to life the moment the desire was experienced
- Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death
- “We are beggeters of our own sin and ancestors of our own desire” (Guy Woods)
- Don’t be deceived about this (v.16)
  
- *How is your attitude toward temptation and sin?*



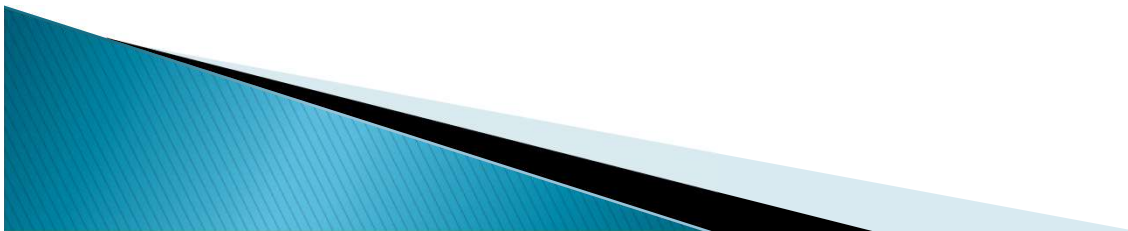
# God's goodness

- Trials are to be expected and can have great benefit
- Temptation is not from God but from ourselves
- But God is good!
- Every good gift and every perfect give from Him
  - The truly valuable things are not from the earth, but from God in heaven
- As good things come down our prayers should be sent up
- Father of lights – constant; no hiding His goodness
- Christians are begotten, or brought forth by the word of truth
- Contrast:
  - Sin brings forth death through deception and falsehood
  - God brings forth life by truth
- *How is your attitude toward God's goodness?*



# Because we have been begotten of the word of truth...

- Because we have been begotten of the word of truth, our lives in word and deed should reflect the truth
- Three commands to follow to know and to grow in truth
  - Be swift to hear
  - Be slow to speak
  - Be slow to wrath
    - How will I be able to listen to the truth, be reasoned with from the Scriptures, if I have wrath in my heart?
    - Wrath does not produce the righteousness of God
- *How is your attitude toward the word of God?*



# Living my faith requires hearing *and* doing

- Therefore, eliminate hindrances
  - Putting away filthiness and overflow of wickedness
- Receive with meekness
  - Strength that yields to truth
- Implanted word
  - Implanted in the heart
- The power of the word of truth
  - Able to save your souls – save initially as well as stay saved
- See the divine and the human side
  - The word divinely given which is able to save
  - The word received in order to be saved





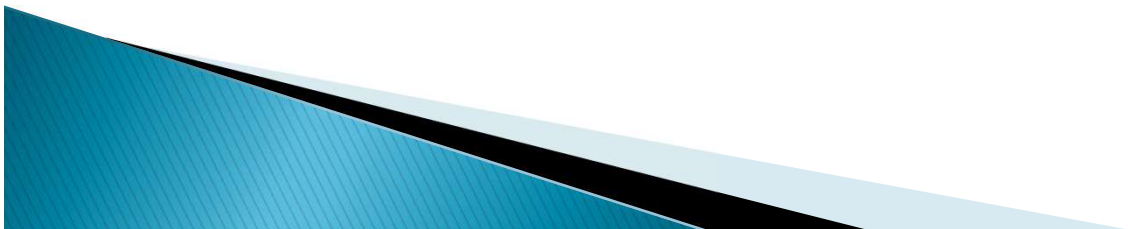
# Living my faith requires hearing *and* doing

- Keep on being doers of the word
- Why are many hearers not profited?
  - Never translate into life the things heard
  - Hearing carries great responsibility
- To deceive self by hearing and not doing is to delude and cheat yourself



# Living my faith requires hearing *and* doing

- Don't be a forgetful hearer
- Instead, look intently into the perfect law of liberty
  - Law = rule of action
  - Perfect
    - complete, full, whole; without defect; all-sufficient; from a perfect source; cannot be improved!
  - Brings liberty
- And continue in it
- Contrast
  - Hearer who forgets
  - Hearer who puts into practice what he hears → blessed
    - John 13:17



# Living my faith requires...

- Bridling my tongue
  - It is possible to think we are religious when we are not
- “Visit orphans and widows in their trouble”
  - Good deeds toward those in need
- Keeping myself unspotted from the world



# Take-aways

- Sometimes we want to blame others for our sin. But I am the one to blame for my sin.
  - We need to look honestly at our own desires.
    - Colossians 3:5
  - When an evil thought enters my mind, I need to recognize it and purge it. I must neither harbor nor entertain it.
  - In order to be taught of God we must be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath
  - We have great individual responsibility to make application of the word of God in our own lives
  - One's religion is useless if he does not bridle his tongue
  - True religion involves practicing good toward others and keeping myself pure and undefiled
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