

# James 1 - Chapter Overview

How the BLESSED man (one receiving God's approval) responds to trials

**Reward - V12**  
"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

**V1-11 - Outward Trials**

**V13+ - Inward Trials/Temptations**

V 2 - We are to "Count them all Joy" - we are to respond with confidence in God

v 3-4 - The purpose of the trial - defined

v5-6 - What to do if you cannot "count it all joy"

v9-11 - An example of an "outward" trial:

Defined

V13 - What the source of inward trials/temptations is not - (it is not God tempting us)

V14-15 - What the source of inward trials/temptations is - "each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire he is dragged away and enticed" - - It is our hearts!

Answer to our inward trials/temptations

V16 - 18 - Every good and perfect gift is from God - including the gift of the HS to address our biggest problem - SIN

The trial's (whether outward or inward) purpose is to produce a Strengthened Faith leading to increase Christ-likeness

**The strengthened faith only comes through obedience to the Word**  
**V18 - The "Word of Truth" = Jesus Christ / "The Word" = the Bible**

V18 - 20 interpretation = The Bible because:  
v21 - speaks of the Bible  
v22 - speaks of the Bible  
v23 - speaks of the Bible  
v25 - speaks of the Bible

How to mature in the Word

V 19 - Quick to listen to The Word

V 19 - Slow to speak to The Word

V 19 - Slow to Anger to The Word

**V 22 - 25 - DO THE WORD AND BE BLESSED**

**V26-27 - Evidence of a person with a renewed life, mature in the Word and a "doer" of the Word - A Born again Christian:**  
1. A controlled tongue (Chapter 3)  
2. Take care of those in need (especially those who cannot repay you) (Chapter 2)  
3. Are unstained by the world (3v13 - 5v6)

# James 1 verse 1

1:1 - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

## 4 Points

### The humility of the Christian

James introduces himself as a willing, permanent slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

James was the:

- ½ brother of Jesus
- Most important pastor of the most important church
- Paul calls him a "pillar of the church of God"
- Moderator of the First General Assembly

James life testifies to the fact that he lived a life as a servant of Christ

Question: Would those closest to us describe the way we live our lives as "servants of Christ"?

### The glory of Jesus

Verse 1 testifies to:

- the divinity of Christ
- that Christ is the same as God
- 2 persons of the Trinity

### The unity of God's Plan

God's plan began when He called out Israel to the Old Covenant

### The unity of God's Church

James uses Old Testament language - "the 12 tribes" - and applies it to the New Testament church

James is writing to the Christian church, calling it the "12 tribes"

James, is in effect saying:

Picture the 12 tribes, wandering the desert, suffering, and not reaching the Promised Land.....

They are us today - - - whose lives are defined by trials....

And these people called out are intertwined into 1 people, all those saved from Pentecost tp today

James is concluding:

- There is 1 people
- There is 1 way to salvation

James 1  
verse 2

Verse 2 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

JOY MEANS "CONFIDENCE IN GOD"  
Therefore, "Consider it Confidence in God", whenever you face trials of many kinds"

We are commanded by God to "Count it all Joy" - - to have "confidence in God" in the midst of trials. If the sufferer is so broken over the trial or tragedy that they don't have this "joy", pray for them to have this "confidence in God"

Because it is commanded, it is within the ability and will of every true Christian to perform

How ?  
Only through the power of the Holy Spirit

The reason we can count it all joy because trials draw us closer to the Lord - the source of all JOY

Trials should draw us to:  
- Studying the Word  
- Prayer  
- Attending Services  
- Christian fellowship

All of which will increase our JOY !!!

Also we know:  
1. Our gracious heavenly Father uses trials not to harm us but to strengthen and perfect us  
2. So, the only way out of a trial - - - is through it

Jesus example - Hebrews 12:2:  
2Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Cross

9am - Noon

Noon

Noon - 3pm

Jesus was nailed to and hung on the cross  
Suffering like other men have suffered

Matt 27:45  
From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.

God lays all the sins of the world (past, present and future) upon Christ on the cross  
Therefore, Christ suffers as no man has or ever will suffer

The JOY set before Christ was fulfilling the glorious work ordained for Christ to accomplish - the will of God

# James 1 verse 2

## Why we can "Count it all Joy"

A summary of a message from Lee Strobel

### 5 key points on suffering

God did not create evil, suffering and death

Even though suffering is never good, God can and does use it to accomplish good

We decide whether suffering in this life will harden or soften us

Any suffering we experience in this life will pale in comparison to what God has in store for his followers

The day is coming when suffering will be ceased and evil will be judged

"When God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was all very good" - (Genesis 1:31)

Free of suffering and evil !!

He made man -- and gave men free will.

Real love must involve real choice.....

The source of evil is not God's power but mankind's freedom !

You can't have a world where there's real choice, while at the same time no possibility for man to choose evil.

Consider Jesus - If it was the will of God that people suffer - than Jesus went against the will of God by healing them - - and Jesus never went against the will of God !

"The very triumphs of His foes he used for their defeat. He compelled their dark achievements to sub serve His ends, not theirs. They nailed Him to a tree, not knowing that by that very act they were bringing the world to His feet. They gave Him a cross, not guessing that He would make it a throne." James Stewart

To keep me from being conceited... there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in my weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. II Cor 12:7-10

"The same sun that melts the butter, --- hardens the clay." - Swindoll

Same sun = Sufferings and trials that affects all mankind

2 heart conditions =  
1. the "butter"  
2. the "clay"

the same sun can "melt" one heart and "harden" another - we decide !

"When sorrow comes, we have no right to ask Why did this happen to me? - Unless we ask the same question when joy comes our way.

Irene Bargmann

Suffering, with dignity, may enable you to mark more lives for Christ than anything else you say or do for Christ.

Bill Hybels, Pastor - Willow Creek Church

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us (Rom 8:18)

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all (II Cor 4:17)

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him (I Cor 2:9)

#### HEAVEN

- It will satisfy our deepest longings
- A world of perfect love, no fear, perfect joy, happiness, freedom and truth
- No sin, suffering, despair, misery
- Our hearts will never grow cold to God
- Where we will be Christ-like (1 John 3:2)
- We will have an imperishable body (1 Cor 15:42-22)
- We will have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 13:12)
- Former things shall not come to mind (Isa 65:17)
- Purpose: To serve and praise God - forever!

#### In times of trouble say :

- First - He brought me here; it is by His will that I am in this difficult place; in that I will rest.
- Next - He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child
- Then - He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons he intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow
- Last - In His good time He can bring me out again - how and when He knows.

If God has the power to eradicate evil and suffering why doesn't he do it? ----- He will !!!

He's holding back the curtain of the close of history so that some might be touched by His love, that some may come to a relationship with Him and spend eternity in heaven with Him.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

And He understands our sufferings as His whole ministry was one of suffering --- see the "path of Christ"

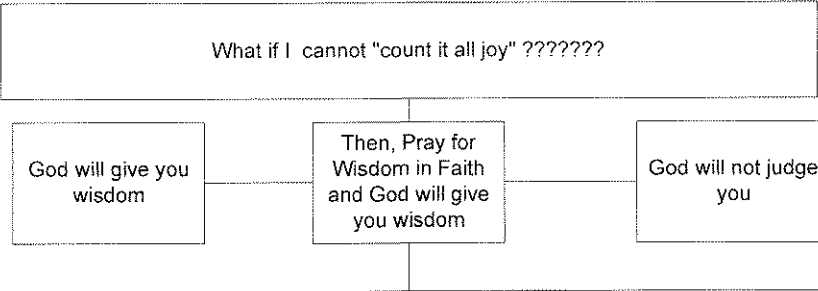
And we know that God causes all things (SUFFERING) to work together for good to those who love God (CHRISTIANS) , to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom he foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son (DEFINING GOOD = CHRISTLIKE), that He might be the first-born among many bretheren.

Romans 8:28-29

Verse	The question this verse asks	The answer to this verse	Explanation	Our worldly response to trials	Signs of our worldliness	James response vs. a worldly response
4	What is God's purpose in trials?	To make us perfect so that we will be perfect and complete	When we stand before God on the last day, the goal is to make us perfect, sinless, as God's so Jesus Christ			
3	What is God's instrument to produce perfection in us?	The testing of our faith	The testing produces perseverance or endurance in that faith			
2	What is the proving ground of that testing?	Trials, afflictions, struggles, pain, suffering		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why me? Why this? Why now?</li> <li>- We doubt the goodness and wisdom of God</li> <li>- We quit spiritually</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p>Doubt (v6)</p> <p>Doubt (v6)</p> <p>Double mindedness (v8) – (attempting to live in 2 worlds at 1 time)</p>	<p>God's revelation for the purpose of suffering does not include an answer to Why.</p> <p>There's goodness and wisdom in testing</p> <p>There's purpose in trials – don't quit on God's plan</p>

Verse	The question this verse asks	The answer to this verse	Explanation	Our worldly response to trials	Signs of our worldliness	James response vs. a worldly response
		Trials		- Bitterness and anger	Double mindedness (v8)	James says "Rejoice!"
2	What is our response supposed to be to this testing?	JOY	We cannot have JOY without understanding the other 3 steps			
5 – 6	How do we respond to trials with JOY?	Through wisdom – if you don't have this wisdom to be able to respond with JOY, ask for it!				

James  
1:5-6



**1 Kings 3**  
**Solomon Asks for Wisdom**

1 Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the LORD , and the wall around Jerusalem. 2 The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the LORD . 3 Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

6 Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

7 "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 11 So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. 13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for-both riches and honor-so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. 14 And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." 15 Then Solomon awoke-and he realized it had been a dream.

**Matthew 7:8 -**  
 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

You cannot doubt that you will receive wisdom when you ask

**Matthew 21:22**  
 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

**Jeremiah 29:11-13**  
 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.





# James 1:13-15

overview

How the blessed man responds to trials

## Reward - V12

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

V1-11 - Outward Trials

V13 + - Inward Trials

V13 - 15 - Bible versions use the word "tempted" and not trial in verses 13-15. The Greek word means both trial and temptation, but there is a required difference in our response to an inward trial/temptation and an outward temptation.

## The proper response

Dealing with the immediate temptation at hand

In Ch. 1, James deal with the reason for our temptations

Flee the temptation

Resist the temptation

We should flee specific circumstances that can lead to sin. Temptation that can be forseen should be avoided.

On temptations by the devil, we are instructed to "Resist" and make the the devil flee

Many times temptations come to us not through outward circumstances that can be predicted, but by attacks within. "Fleeing" is not an option as we can't escape ourselves!

**FLEE!**  
Immorality - 1 Cor 6:18  
Idolatry - 1 Cor 10:14  
Love of Money/  
Greed - 1 Tim 6:11  
Youthful lusts - 2 Tim 2:22  
Adulterous woman - Prov 5:8  
(actually means avoid her completely)

**RESIST!**  
Eph 6:10-17 - Resist the devil by putting on the armor of God  
  
James 4:7 - Battle worldliness by submitting to God and resisting the devil  
  
1 Peter 5:9 - Resist the devil by being firm in the faith and self controlled knowing others are going through the same temptation  
  
Matt 4:1-11 - Jesus resisted the Devil by utilizing the Word

The problem is our hearts !

1 Corinthians 6:18  
Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 10:14  
Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

1 Timothy 6:11  
But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

2 Timothy 2:22  
Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Proverbs 5:8  
Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,

In vv13-15 - James defines this "heart" issue  
  
v16 - 17 - James defines how to get a new heart  
  
v18 + - James provides a proper response of one with a new heart.

**James  
1:13-15**

How the blessed man responds to trials

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"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

V1-11 - Outward Trials

V13 + - Inward Trials

**Source of our inward trials**

Is Not.....

Is.....

**V13 - The source of our temptation is not God**  
- God does not tempt us; but a sovereign God allows us to be tempted  
- God cannot be tempted by evil  
- Matthew 4 is better described as the TESTING of Christ by the devil  
- In response to Satan's first attack, Jesus quotes Deut 8:2-3 which is defined as a testing  
  
- "Lead us not into temptation" is asking - - - "don't lead us into a testing of our faith that could become an unbearable temptation to commit evil."

**Deuteronomy 8:2-3**  
2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

**V14 - Our Hearts** - This is our inner person. The person's mind, affections, will and emotions  
**Matthew 15:18-19**  
**Jeremiah 17:9**  
**Romans 7:18**  
**Proverbs 19:3**  
  
**V 15 - "You always do what you desire most"**  
1. A desire enters your mind  
2. You're enticed by your affections  
3. The will chooses to do it  
4. You do it  
5. Sin

**Romans 7:18-25**  
18I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. 20Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.  
  
21So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!  
  
So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

**Matthew 15:18-19**  
18But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' 19For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

**Jeremiah 17:9**  
9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

**V14-15** - 14but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.  
  
**The Progress of Sin**  
1 It startles you    4. Delightful    7. Way of Life  
2 Pleasing        5. Frequent    8. Feel no guilt  
3 Easy            6. Habitual    9. Resolve not to repent

**Proverbs 19:3**  
3 A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD .

James  
1:13-15  
Temptation  
"Purpose Drive Life" Notes

Growing through Temptation

When temptation enters into our lives, we have an equal chance to do the RIGHT thing as we do the WRONG thing.

Satan uses temptation to DESTROY us

Temptation is a sign that Satan hates you !

1. Temptation begins when Satan identifies a desire within us
2. Satan tries to get you to doubt what God has said about sin
3. Satan than deceives you by replacing God's truth with a lie
4. You act on the thought
5. Which is sin

1. We will always be tempted
2. Being tempted is not a sign of weakness
3. It is not a sin to be tempted
4. It is not a sin to be physically attracted/aroused by someone of the opposite sex; it is a sin to lust or dwell on it

God allows temptation in our lives to GROW us

The closer Christians get to God the more they will be tempted

God allows temptation in order to develop the 9 fruits of the Spirit in our lives:

- love
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self control

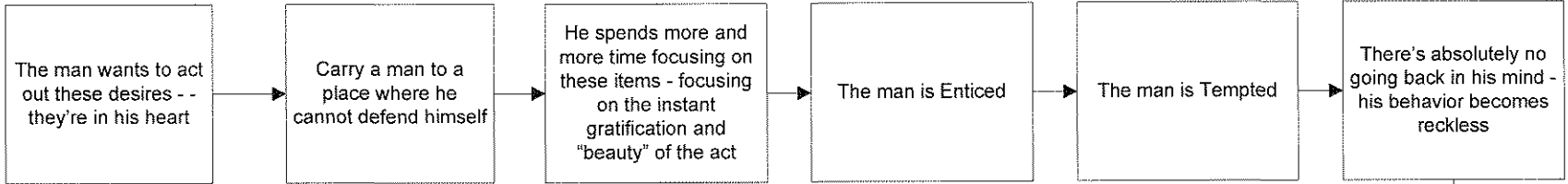
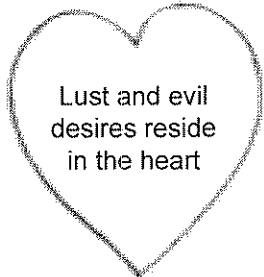
God develops these fruits of the Spirit in our lives by allowing us to experience circumstances in which we're: TEMPTED TO EXPRESS THE EXACT OPPOSITE QUALITY

God teaches us:

LOVE -- by putting unlovely people around us  
 JOY -- by giving us sorrow  
 PEACE -- by giving us anxious / afraid times

Summarized from Chapter 6 of the book:  
"At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry"  
by Steve Gallagher

James  
1:13-15



**The HEART.....**

**Jeremiah 17:9** - 9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

**Psalms 51:5** - 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**Romans 3:23** -23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

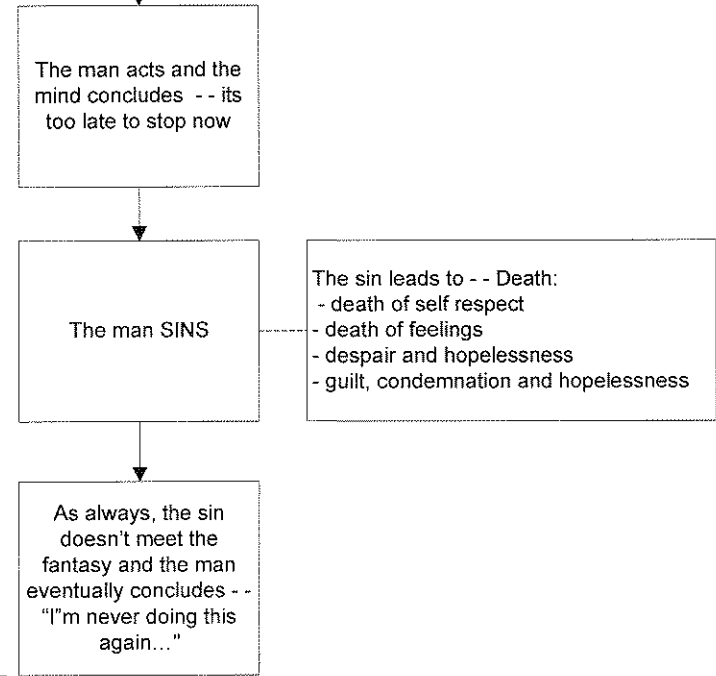
**1 John 1:8** - 8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**Matthew 15:18-20** - 18But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' 19For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'

**Proverbs 16:18** - 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

**Psalms 101:5** - 5 Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.

**Romans 3:10-18** - 10As it is written:"There is no one righteous, not even one; 11there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips."14"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15"Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16ruin and misery mark their ways, 17and the way of peace they do not know." 18"There is no fear of God before their eyes."



When the sinful desire comes into the mind and heart --- FLEE !

Men will never keep this promise until they REPENT with a Godly sorrow over that sin, walk closely with God and see the sin as God does....

**James  
1:16-17**

**John 3**  
 Nicodemus, like most teachers of Mosaic Law, taught that to please God you had to obey the law, and this of yourself.  
*"3In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."  
 4"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"  
 5Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."  
 9"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "  
 Jesus explained the Spirit of God sovereignly moves where He will and gives new birth to whom He has predestined to salvation  
 The conclusion - the new birth is of God, not of man .....  
 This is the chief "good and perfect gift" that God gives to us*

V1-11 - Outward Trials

**Matthew 7:7-11**  
**Ask, Seek, Knock**  
 7"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.  
 9"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

**Consider God's goodness -- He gives His Spirit to address our biggest need and problem -- SIN !**

**Luke 11:13**  
 13If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

If God is willing to give this greatest gift to us, why should anything evil have any affect on us?

V13 +- Inward Trials

Answer to our inward trials  
v 16 - 17

If the problem is in our heart -- then we need a new one !

God is not responsible for our temptations but is responsible for "every good and perfect gift given to us" - v17

- V17 - Consider God's goodness:
1. Every good and perfect gift is from above
  2. God gives these gifts to help you overcome trials (Luke 11:13)
  3. God is always willing and available to help with trials

Source of our inward trials  
v 13 - 15

Leads to a Strengthened Faith

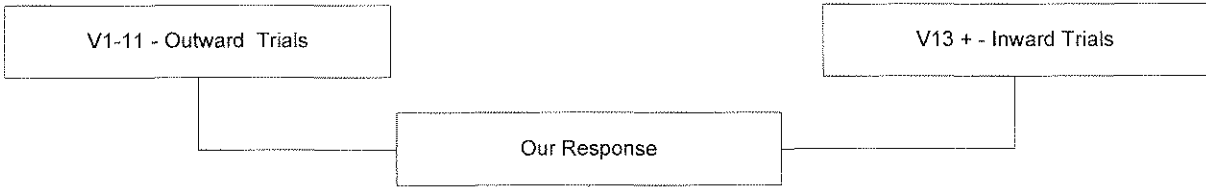
**Romans 12:2**  
 2Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Philippians 4:8**  
 8Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

V18 - He gives us (as verse 18 says "in the exercise of His will") a NEW BIRTH that leads to a NEW LIFE - new heart, new desires for God by the "Word of Truth"

**Ezekiel 36:25-26**  
 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

James 1  
v18



v18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

**Ephesians 5:25-26**

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.

**Psalm 119:11**

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

**Hebrews 4:12**

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**V18 - The "Word of Truth" = Jesus Christ / "The Word" = the Bible**

- 1. You cannot live the Christian life w/out studying the Word
- 2. Everything we need to live our lives is in the Word.
- 3. Psalm 119:11
- 4. Matthew 4:1-11
- 5. Hebrews 4:12
- 6. Psalm 19:7-11

**Matthew 4**

**The Temptation of Jesus**

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**Psalm 19:7-11**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect....., reviving the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy.....making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right,.....giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant....., giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is pure....., enduring forever.

The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

# James 1 18 - 22

V1-11 - Outward Trials

V13 + - Inward Trials

**John 14:21-24**  
21Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." 22Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" 23Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

**V18 - The "Word of Truth" = Jesus Christ / "The Word" = the Bible**

- When the true disciple hears the Word of God, there is an affection for the truth and a desire in his heart to obey it.

- One of the most reliable evidences of genuine salvation is "hunger for the Word of God".

V18 - 20 interpretation = The Bible because:  
v21 - speaks of the Bible ("the Word implanted")  
v22 - speaks of the Bible ("the word")  
v23 - speaks of the Bible ("the word")  
v25 - speaks of the Bible ("the perfect law, the law of liberty")

**John 8:31-32**  
**The Children of Abraham**  
31To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

V21 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.

V22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

V23 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 24and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like

V25 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.

**Ephesians 4:22-24**  
22You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

How to mature in the Word

Because v18 introduces the "Word of Truth" and v21 - 25 references the Word, a consistent interpretation of v19 is:

How to mature in the Word

**1 Peter 2**  
1Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

V 19 - Quick to listen :  
**TO THE WORD-**  
( attending service / personal study )

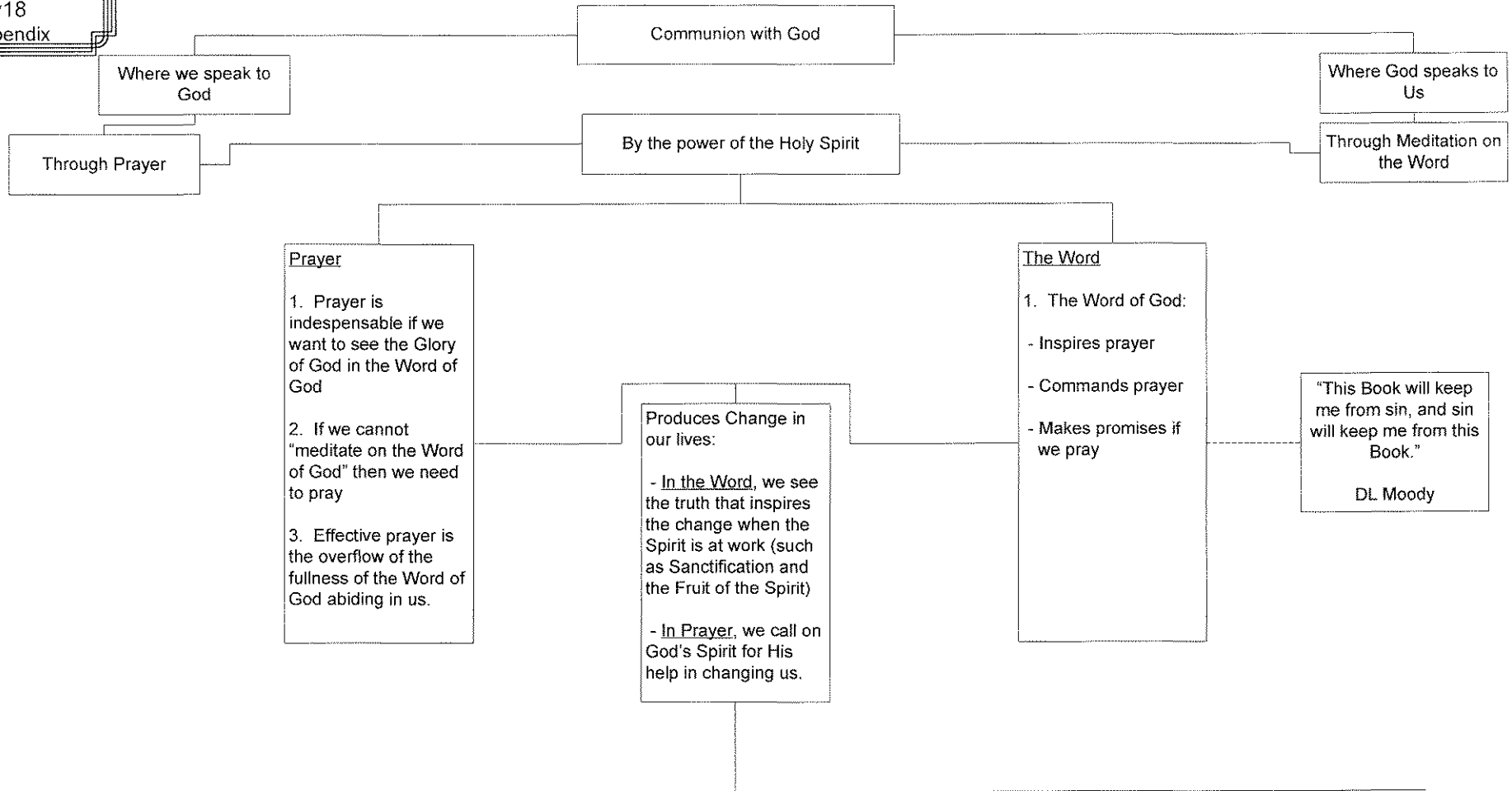
How to mature in the Word

V 19 - Slow to speak  
**AGAINST THE WORD -**  
( slow to give your opinion )

V 19 - Slow to Anger - or slow to be self defensive  
**WHEN CORRECTED BY THE WORD**  
( or when the Word confronts a sin or conflicts with a deeply held belief)

**2 Timothy 3:16**  
16All Scripture is Godbreathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

James 1  
v18  
Appendix



**Prayer**

1. Prayer is indispensable if we want to see the Glory of God in the Word of God
2. If we cannot "meditate on the Word of God" then we need to pray
3. Effective prayer is the overflow of the fullness of the Word of God abiding in us.

**The Word**

1. The Word of God:
  - Inspires prayer
  - Commands prayer
  - Makes promises if we pray

Produces Change in our lives:

- In the Word, we see the truth that inspires the change when the Spirit is at work (such as Sanctification and the Fruit of the Spirit)
- In Prayer, we call on God's Spirit for His help in changing us.

"This Book will keep me from sin, and sin will keep me from this Book."  
DL Moody

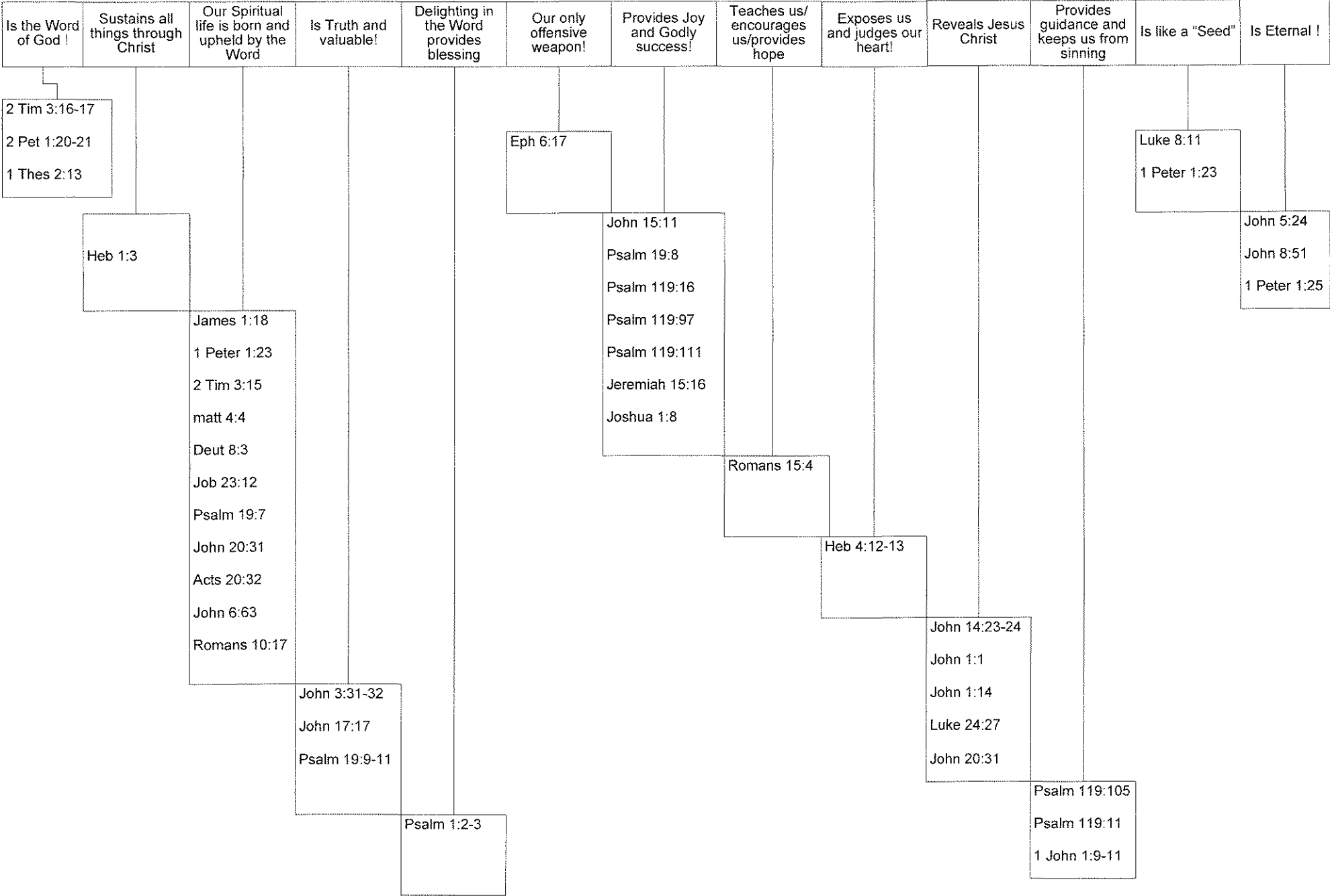
John 15:7 - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (The Word and Prayer)

2 Thes 2:13-14 - But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (The Spirit working through the Word)

2 Thes 2:15-17 - So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. (The Word)

2 Thes 3:1-2 - Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith (Prayer for the spread of the Word)





Is the Word of  
God !

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**2 Peter 1:20-21**

20Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

13And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

Sustains all  
things through  
Christ

**Hebrews 1:3**

3The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Our Spiritual  
life is born and  
upheld by the  
Word

**James 1:18**

18He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

**1 Peter 1:23**

23For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

**2 Timothy 3:15**

15and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 4:4**

4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

**Deuteronomy 8:3**

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

**Job 23:12**

12 I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

**Psalms 19:7**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Our Spiritual  
life is born and  
upheld by the  
Word

John 20:31

31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 20:32

32"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

John 6:63

63The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

Romans 10:17

17Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Is Truth and  
valuable!

John 8:31-32

31To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 17:17

17Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Psalms 19:9-11

9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Delighting in  
the Word  
provides  
blessing

Psalms 1:2-3

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Our only  
offensive  
weapon!

Ephesians 6:17

17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Provides Joy  
and Godly  
success!

John 15:11

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Psalms 19:8

8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psalms 119:16

16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

Psalms 119:97

97 Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

Psalms 119:111

111 Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

Jeremiah 15:16

16 When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Teaches us/  
encourages  
us/provides  
hope

Romans 15:4

4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Exposes us  
and judges our  
heart!

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Reveals Jesus  
Christ

John 14:23-24

23Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

John 1:1

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luke 24:27

27And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

John 20:31

31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Provides  
guidance and  
keeps us from  
sinning

Psalms 119:105

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 119:11

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

1 John 1:9-11

9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Is like a "Seed"

Luke 8:11

11" This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. (Luke 8:1-15)

1 Peter 1:23

23For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Is Eternal !

**John 5:24**

24"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

**John 8:51**

51I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

**1 Peter 1:25**

25but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

James 1  
v22 - 25

DO THE WORD AND BE BLESSED -

**Joshua 1:8**  
8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Purpose of studying the Word is a CHANGED LIFE  
The person who honestly looks into the Word of God sees 2 things:  
1. His sin  
2. The sinless Savior and Lord

**1 John 2:3-4**  
3We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

**John 14:21**  
21Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

**Matthew 7:21-27**  
21"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'  
**The Wise and Foolish Builders**  
24"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

**Matthew 13**  
**The Parable of the Sower**  
1That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9He who has ears, let him hear."

**Mark 6:20**  
20because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled<sup>[a]</sup>; yet he liked to listen to him.

**Matthew 13:1-9**  
**The Parable of the Sower**  
Seed = The Word  
Ground = Heart

**Matthew 13:18-23**  
18"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

**James 1  
v22 - 25**

DO THE WORD AND BE BLESSED

V23 - 24  
The "hearer" of the Word

v25  
The 'hearer" and "doer" of the Word

- He listens
- He looks at the Law
- He looks at the Word

23Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

The person who looks at the Word and does not apply it is like the man who looks at his face in the mirror and forgets what he looks like.

It has no impact and it never penetrates his heart and mind

He lives by that Word  
He acts on that Word  
He obeys the Word

25But 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.

The person who looks at the Word and does it is like the man who looks at his face in the mirror and detests it - he sees his filthiness in light of the Word - and he has a desire for his sins and filthiness be replaced by the righteousness of God.

The test of whether you believe God's Word is.....  
**Whether you OBEY it or not....**  
**The only way to a spiritually blessed and prosperous life is through the faithful study and application of God's word**



I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger.  
I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release.  
I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.  
I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.  
I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.  
I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.  
You seem so holy, so close to God.  
But I'm still very hungry and lonely and cold.

Source unknown

D. L. Moody

While D. L. Moody was attending a convention in Indianapolis on mass evangelism, he asked his song leader Ira Sankey to meet him at 6 o'clock one evening at a certain street corner. When Sankey arrived, Mr. Moody asked him to stand on a box and sing. Once a crowd had gathered, Moody spoke briefly and then invited the people to follow him to the nearby convention hall. Soon the auditorium was filled with spiritually hungry people, and the great evangelist preached the gospel to them. Then the convention delegates began to arrive. Moody stopped preaching and said, "Now we must close, as the brethren of the convention wish to come and discuss the topic, 'How to reach the masses.'"

Salvation Army

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was brushing his mane-like white hair when his son Bramwell stepped into the room. "Bramwell!" he cried. "Did you know that men sleep out all night on the bridges?" "Well, yes," the son replied. "A lot of poor fellows I suppose do that." "Then you ought to be ashamed of yourself to have known it and to have done nothing for them!" his father retorted. And when the son began to talk about the Poor Law program, General Booth waved a hand and said, "Go and do something! We must do something!" "What can we do?" "Get them a shelter!" "That will cost money," replied Bramwell. "Well, that is your affair. Something must be done. Get hold of a warehouse and warm it, and find something to cover them. But mind, Bramwell, no coddling!"

That was the beginning of Salvation Army shelters. The Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching & Preachers, W. Wiersbe, p. 184

One step forward in obedience is worth years of study about it.  
Chambers, Our Daily Bread, March 4, 1993

James 1  
v26 - 27

The true "DOER" of the Word

The evidence of the true "DOER" of the Word according to James is the introduction to the rest of the Book of James

**The true Christian "doer of the Word" will do these 3 things**

Control their tongue

**James 1:26**  
26If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

This verse introduces Ch. 3 of the Book of James on the Tongue (3v 1 - 12)

The non-Christian with "religion" will expose his faithlessness with his mouth, because he doesn't have the inner power to bridle his tongue.

If the tongue is not controlled by God, it is a certain indication that the heart is not either

**Matthew 25:35-36**  
35For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Take care of those in need

**James 1:27a**  
27Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.....

This verse introduces Ch. 2 regarding taking care of those in need, especially those who cannot repay you, which is an evidence of true sacrificial love

**Luke 14:12-14**  
12Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Be unstained by the World

**James 1:27b**  
27Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: ..... and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

This verse introduces the remainder of the Book of James - Chapter 3v13 - 5v6 regarding being unstained by the World

**1 John 2:15-16**  
**Do Not Love the World**  
15Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.