

murder pray spend full tamed earth many name selfish person apart joy meekness believe yes ambiguity doubt evil lacking desire salt great yet gives gift grace peace let worship brothers man also good perfect commit tomorrow forgets love wisdom whole neighbor made Behold Christ prayer produce save

James

# James 1:1

HOW do we achieve holiness?

# James 1:1

## 1. Who was James?

Which one is the author?

### 1. What did James do?

### 2. What was he like?

What can we learn from his character?

## 2. Who were the readers?

## 3. When was the letter written?

## 4. What is the main message?

# James 1:1

1. Who was James?  
Which one is the author?

James, the brother of John (Mk.1:19)

James, the son of Alphaeus (Lk.6:15)

James, the father of Judas (Lk.6:16)

James, the brother of JESUS (Mk.6:3)



# James 1:1

You can be PHYSICALLY  
close to Jesus  
and yet SPIRITUALLY  
very far away from Him!

# James 1:1

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### 1. What did James do?

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# James 1:1

HOW do we achieve holiness?

# James 1:1

“Gospel of James”

*True heirs of the kingdom live  
like friends of God.*



# James 1:1

## "Gospel of James"

*True heirs of the kingdom live like friends  
of God.*

*When they fail to meet the standard,  
they plead for grace.*



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# Trials Pt.1

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# Trials Pt.1

## "Gospel of James"

*True heirs of the kingdom live like friends  
of God.*

*When they fail to meet the standard,  
they plead for grace.*

# Trials Pt.1

Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials, (Jas.1:2)

## 1. The attitude & result (V.2-4)

Source of - and reason for Joy

## 2. The means (V.5-11)

Practical example (V.9-11)

## 3. The Goal / Reward (V.12)

# Trials Pt.1

And without faith  
it is impossible to please Him,  
for he who comes to GOD  
must believe that He is,  
and that He is a rewarder of those  
who seek Him.

(Hebr.11:6)

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# Trials Pt.1

"In and of itself, this trial is not a solicitation [=Anstiftung] to evil, it is just an objective difficulty that enters into life that can be a test of the genuineness of our faith."

*John MacArthur*

# Trials Pt.1

Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials, (Jas.1:2)

**„πειρασμός“**  
(peirasmos)

Translations: trial, temptation, test, hardship,  
difficulty, affliction, ...

The same word is used in Verses 2, 12, 13 and 14.  
(also in 1.Cor.10:13!)

# Trials Pt.1

Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials, (Jas.1:2)



growth in Christ,  
maturity, endurance

‘easy way out’,  
‘off-ramp’

# Trials Pt.1

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted/**tested** beyond what you are able, but with the temptation/**trial** will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

*1. Cor. 10:13*

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# Trials Pt.1

'Consider' means we must make a mental judgement about trials. From our vantage point, most trials seem like tragic accidents.

Humanly speaking, trials seem like random evil that falls on us.

*Daniel M. Doriani*

# Trials Pt.1

“Normally your feelings are influenced by your attitude or your approach toward hardships and trials. But GOD focuses on your thoughts and not on your feelings. You have to learn to see trials as a reason for joy.”

*Jay Adams*

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# James

# Trials Pt.2

Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials, (Jas.1:2)

## 1. The attitude & result (V.2-4)

Source of - and reason for Joy

## 2. The means (V.5-11)

Practical example (V.9-11)

## 3. The Goal / Reward (V.12)

# Trials Pt.2

Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
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Source of - and reason for Joy

## 2. The means (V.5-11)

Practical example (V.9-11)

## 3. The Goal / Reward (V.12)

# Trials Pt.2

"Perseverance is the ability not to falter even under extremely difficult circumstances. The true Believer honors the Lord Jesus Christ, even if it is not easy for him - just because he has learned to persevere. He will also not give in in the hour of temptation."

*Jay Adams*

# Trials Pt.2

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# Trials Pt.2

Wisdom is not just knowledge  
but the practical use of knowledge!

“Wisdom is not just mental capacity  
but the ability to live life in a righteous  
way.”

*Arnold Fruchtenbaum*

# Trials Pt.2

God, who gives...

*When God gives, He acts according to His nature (V.17)*

...to all...

*God doesn't play ,favorites'*

...generously...

*God gives simply. It's a pure gift!*

- He doesn't return a favor*
- He doesn't expect a favor*

*God's gifts do not  
become debts!*

...and without reproach

*How would it look like to give with reproach...?*

*God doesn't. He simply gives.*

# Trials Pt.2

„Trials are the great equalizer: they bring all of God's children to dependence on Him.“

*John MacArthur*

# Trials Pt.2

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# Trials Pt.2

„We gain the crown of life both by enduring trials and by loving God. The prime source for our endurance is not a grim determination to do our duty and collect our reward, it is love for God. Love is certainly the prime motivation for our walk with God.“

*Daniel M. Doriani*

# Trials Pt.2

„If we demand a reward to obey God, we love the reward rather than God. *“The soul that loves God seeks no other reward than that God whom it loves. Were the soul to demand anything else, then it would certainly love that other thing and not God.”* (B. of Clairvaux)”

*Daniel M. Doriani*

# Trials Pt.2

## **„In acute cases“ (IN trials)**

- Keep the right „point of view“ (consider it joy...)
- Seek the presence and wisdom of GOD
- Use the Armor of GOD (Eph.6:10-18)
- Seek fellowship

## **Preventative (preparation)**

- Get to know the „truths“ of and about GOD
- Further your relationship with JESUS
- Test the state of your heart (Ps.139:23&24)

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James



# Trials Pt.1

Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials, (Jas.1:2)



growth in Christ,  
maturity, endurance

‘easy way out’,  
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# Temptation (1:13-18)

"A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in."

*C.S. Lewis*

# Temptation (1:13-18)

1. God does not tempt! (V.13)
  1. For He cannot be tempted
  2. For He does not tempt
2. The Problem is my sinfulness (V.14-15)
3. God is the giver of all good things! (V.16-17)

# Temptation (1:13-18)

Because they did not  
believe in GOD,  
and did not  
trust in HIS salvation.

(Ps.78:22)

# Temptation (1:13-18)

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# Temptation (1:13-18)

"You cannot keep birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from nesting in your hair."

*Martin Luther*

# Temptation (1:13-18)

Deception

Attraction

Preoccupation

Conception

# Temptation (1:13-18)

"James doesn't say: I am sorry, there's nothing you can do. Instead he emphasizes the opposite: You are and remain the only one responsible for your sin. Allurement and temptation do not take away the fact that anyone has to [deliberately] decide to sin. The person then will walk down a path that they alone will be responsible for."

*Gerhard Maier*



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3. God is the giver of all good things! (V.16-18)

# Temptation (1:13-18)

1. *Become familiar*  
with this temptation cycle (V.16)
2. *Trust 100%* in the  
unchanging goodness of God (V.17)
3. *Know* that you have experienced  
the transforming power of the living God (V.18)

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James

# Appreciation VS Application

(Jas.1:19-27)

1. This you know... (V.19-21)
  1. QUICK to hear
  2. SLOW to speak
  3. SLOW to anger
2. But prove yourselves doers... (V.22-25)
3. Practical conclusion (V.26-27)

# Appreciation VS Application

(Jas.1:19-27)

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How do you approach scripture?

# Appreciation VS Application

(Jas.1:19-27)

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# Appreciation VS Application

(Jas.1:19-27)

„Whenever believers came together to listen to Scripture and it's commands, they had to be quick to hear, ready to hear, willing and engaged in hearing. Because listening to the Word of GOD was the first step to discipleship. Therefore believers have to listen without reacting too fast.“

*Arnold Fruchtenbaum*



# Appreciation VS Application

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# Appreciation VS Application

(Jas.1:19-27)

What steps can we take to move from appreciators to appliers?

- 1) Write it down. *Journal; write out prayers; book of remembrance; put your responses to biblical truth into writing*
- 2) Talk about it. *become accountable; foster relationships in which you can discuss responses to truth*
- 3) Review. *take time to read through your journal / notebook again; time is flying!*
- 4) Pray. *speak with GOD about the things you're learning; request wisdom and grace for application of truth*
- 5) Slow down. *take your time when you read; take time to listen; read out loud*

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James

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

Paul: is fighting against the Jewish “works-mentality”  
that replaces faith with works and produces “performance”

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

James: is fighting against the inconsistency (laziness)  
that is satisfied with “shallow faith”

*“Just as the body without spirit is dead,  
so also faith without works is dead.” (Jas.2:26)*

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

## 1. Time:

James is most likely the first epistle written of the NT.  
Paul's first letter (Thessalonians) was written later.

## 2. Main message:

Paul: “How is salvation received?”

James: “How can true faith be verified?”

## 3. Concerning works:

Paul: works of the law (can't save) - Gal.2:16

James: works of faith (are the fruit) - Jas.2:17

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

1. Introduction (V.14-16)
2. Statement (V.17)
3. Objections (V.18-20)
4. Examples (V.21-26)

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

„The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge JESUS with their lips then walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.“

*Brennan Manning*

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

**„I believe in God!“**

- ⇒ Saved?
- ⇒ What would you ask?
- ⇒ How could you find out?



# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

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2. Statement (V.17)
3. Objections (V.18-20)
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# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

„Our claims are not always an accurate reflection of what we really think and believe – but our deeds are.

We do not always live what we say we believe – but we always believe what we live out.“

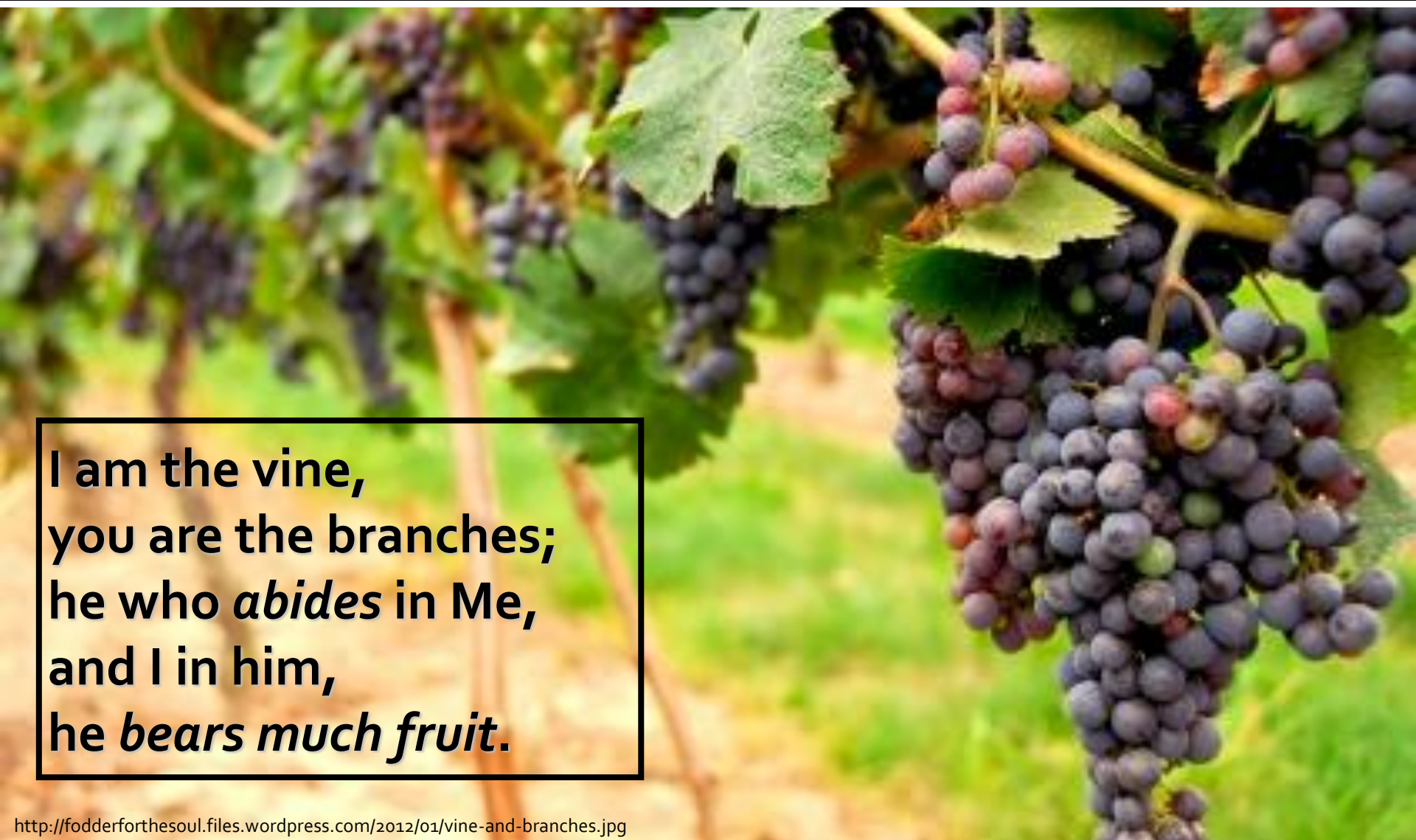
*Sam Allberry*

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

„The truth in the Bible will never set you free, until it becomes the truth in your heart.“

*C.H.Spurgeon*

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)



**I am the vine,  
you are the branches;  
he who *abides* in Me,  
and I in him,  
he *bears much fruit*.**

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

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2. Statement (V.17)
3. Objections (V.18-20)
4. Examples (V.21-26)

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

O: *“You have faith, and I have works.”*

(“You” and “I” = generalization: *“Some have faith and some have works.”*)

J: *“Show me your faith without the works (impossible), and I will show you my faith by my works (possible).”*



# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)



## Shema Israel:

Hear, o Israel!  
The LORD is our GOD,  
the LORD is One!

Deut.6:4

## James:

You believe that  
GOD is One!?  
You do well...

Jas.2:19

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

1. Introduction (V.14-16)
2. Statement (V.17)
3. Objections (V.18-20)
4. Examples (V.21-26)

# „Faith that works“ (Jas.2:14-26)

“To have faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already in inside you.”

*C.S.Lewis*

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James

1. Read James 3:1-12
2. What are other verses in James where he writes about the tongue/speaking?
3. Do you find something unique/different about this passage compared to the rest of the letter?
4. How many commands/instructions do you find in this passage?

# Words and Tongue (Jas.3:1-12)

1. The Verdict (V.1-2)
2. The Examples (V.3-4)
3. Three Problems (V.5-12)
  1. It sets on fire (V.5-6)
  2. It is untamable (V.7-8)
  3. It is two-faced / deceitful (V.9-12)

# Words and Tongue (Jas.3:1-12)

1<sup>st</sup> (direct) order:

“Let not many of you become teachers...!”

(V.1)

2<sup>nd</sup> (general) order:

“... these things ought not to be this way!”

(V.10)

# Words and Tongue (Jas.3:1-12)

1. Verdict (V.1-2)
2. Examples (V.3-4)
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# Words and Tongue (Jas.3:1-12)



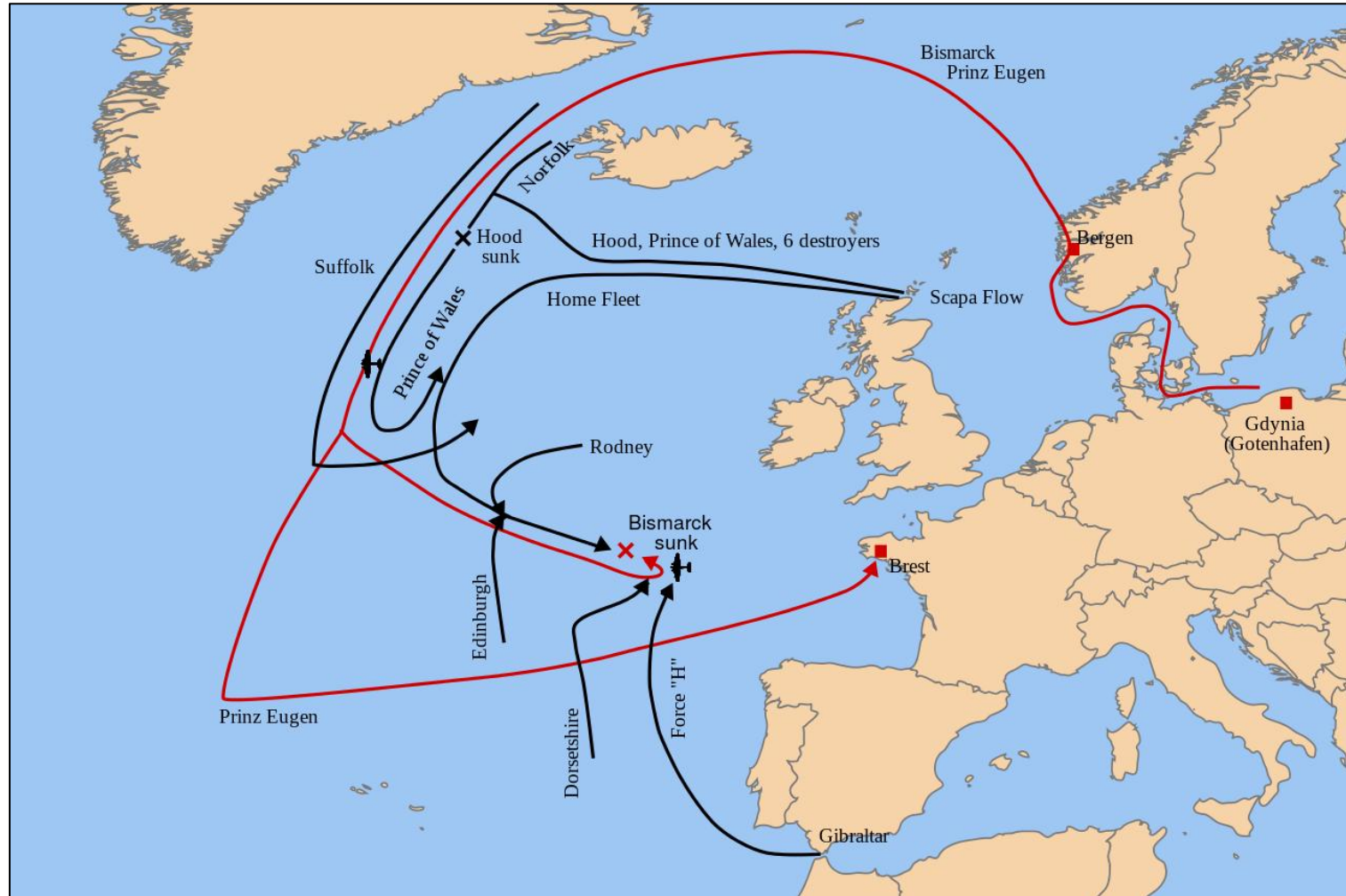
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Photo # NH 59672 German battleship Bismarck, stern view





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# Words and Tongue (Jas.3:1-12)



1.

Pray and ask... Ps.141:3

...the LORD for wisdom, strength and protection.

2.

Fill the treasure... Mt.12:35;

Pro.4:23

...of your heart with the right things!



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joy Lord faith evil  
ment justified forth meekness believe yes ambi  
whoever righteousness great yet gives wor  
peace let able gift grace  
brothers man also  
good perfect commit tomorrow forgets love  
wisdom whole  
neighbor made Behold  
prayer Christ  
produce save

James



# Affiliation (Jas.4:4-10)

## 1. “You adulteresses” – The Problem (V.4-6)

1. Human desire
2. GOD’s desire

## 2. “Submit therefore” – The Solution (V.7-10)

1. Submit
2. Resist
3. Draw near
4. Humble

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# Affiliation (Jas.4:4-10)

*"The spirit that GOD gave us, desires  
jealously."*

*"The Spirit which is dwelling in us desires  
jealously."*

*"GOD desires jealously the spirit."*

*"GOD desires the Spirit jealously."*

# Affiliation (Jas.4:4-10)

*"The (human) spirit that GOD gave us, desires  
jealously (for the wrong things)."*

*"The (Holy) Spirit which is dwelling in us desires  
jealously (to do the right thing)."*

*"GOD desires jealously the (human) spirit."*

*"GOD desires the (Holy) Spirit jealously."*

# Affiliation (Jas.4:4-10)

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1. Human desire
2. GOD’s desire

## 2. “Submit therefore” – The Solution (V.7-10)

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James

# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

1. Context: Pride or Humility (Earthly or Heavenly Wisdom)  
Jas.3:13-5:6
2. How should we make plans?
  1. Consider how unpredictable life is (V.13)
  2. Remind yourself of the eternal perspective (V.14)
  3. Seek God's will in all you do (V.15)
  4. Don't become self-sufficient / independent (V.16-17)

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# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

„He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to *walk humbly* with your God?“

*Micah 6:8*

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  2. Remind yourself of the eternal perspective (V.14)
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# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

1. Context: Pride or Humility (Earthly or Heavenly Wisdom)  
Jas.3:13-5:6
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# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

Today or tomorrow we shall...  
... go to such and such a city...  
... and spend a year there...  
... and engage in business...  
... and make a profit.



= WHEN	Time
=WHERE	Place
=HOW LONG	Duration
=WHAT	Purpose
=WHY	Goal

The problem is not WHAT they do.  
The problem is WHAT they DON'T do!  
(V.17)

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# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)



# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

For what does it profit a man  
to gain the whole world, and  
forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:36



# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

So teach us to number our  
days that we may get a heart  
of wisdom.

*Psalms 90:12 (ESV)*

# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. [...]

It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth “thrown in”; aim at earth and you will get neither.”

*C.S. Lewis*

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# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

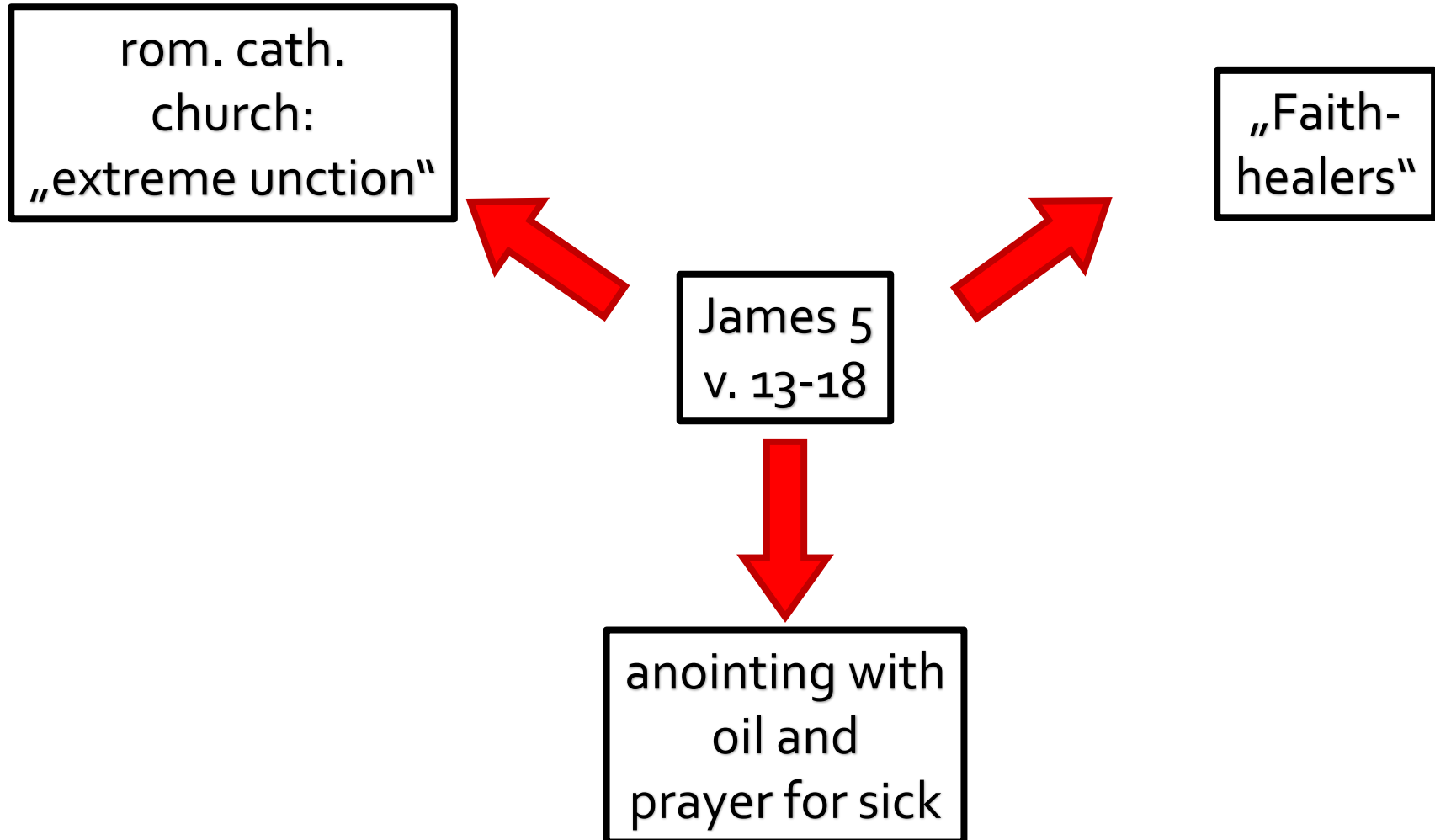
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# Making plans (Jas.4:13-17)

1. Dedicate your plans to God  
Proverbs 3:5-6 and Col.3:23-24
2. Confess your need for God's favor  
Ps.127:1
3. Confess that whatever you achieve – it's through God's gift and favor 2.Cor.10:17

# James

# James 5:13-18



# James 5:13-18

1. Intro: A few questions... 😊
2. What is the theme of this passage?  
What is the context of the book?
3. V.13 – Suffering & Praying // Joy & Singing
4. V.14 – Sick? // Elders // Praying // Anointing
5. V.15 – Prayer of faith // Who is healed - by whom/what!?
6. V.16 – Confessing and Praying
7. V.17 – The example of Elijah  
(and how it is connected to this passage...)



## James 5:13-18

**κακοπαθέω**  
kakopatheo

*= to suffer, esp. being under  
affliction / suffering evil*

## James 5:13-18

O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge –  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

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## James 5:13-18

**ἀσθενέω**

astheneo

= *sick (18x in the NT),  
weak or feeble (14x in the NT)*

# James 5:13-18

Mt. 10:8, Mk.6:56, Lk.4:40, Jn.11:1

Acts 9:37, Acts 19:12, Acts 20:35

Romans 4:19, 1.Cor.8:11-12, 2.Cor.12:10,

Phil.2:26-27, 2.Tim.4:20

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## James 5:13-18

αλείφω

aleifo

= *to rub sth. in, oil, anoint*

χριο

chrío

= *anoint*

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## James 5:13-18

κάμνω  
kamno

*= to toil, tire, faint, sicken, to be  
weary (only 2x in the NT!)*

# James 5:13-18

σώζω

SOZO

*= to save, deliver, heal, preserve*

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