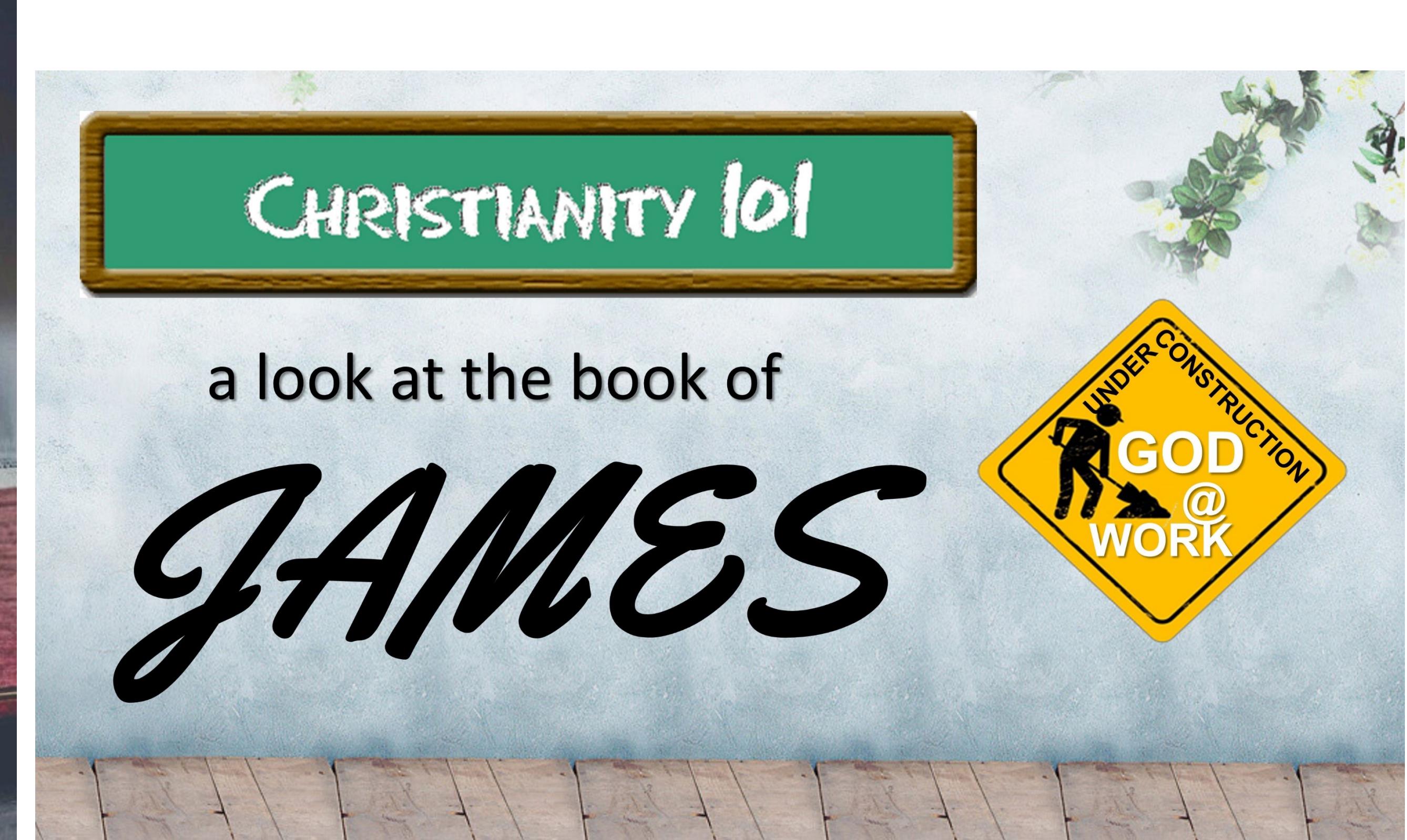




SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG
METHODIST CHURCH



Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming
4 July 2021



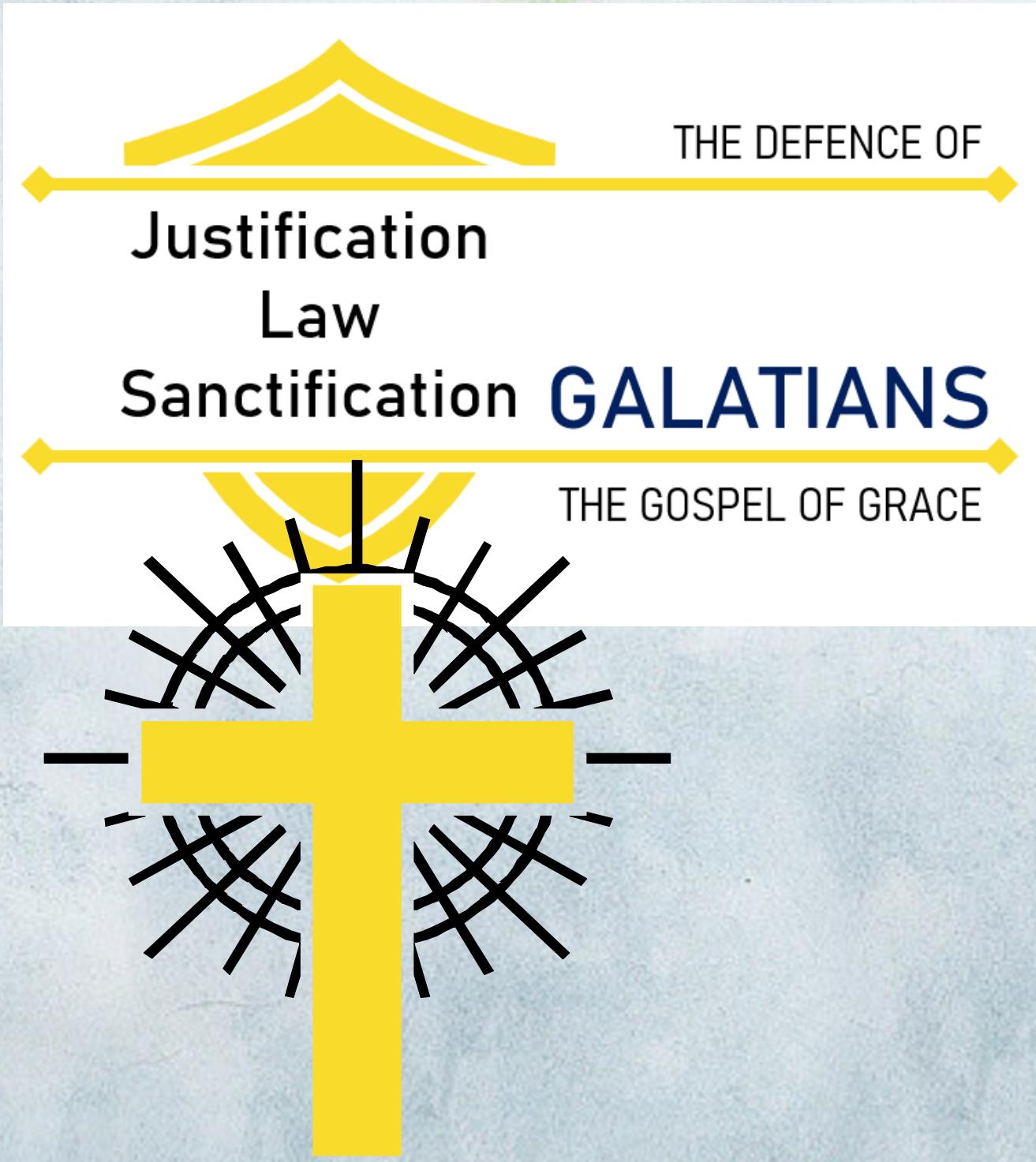
CHRISTIANITY 101

a look at the book of

JAMES



Ps Swee Ming
4th July 2021



1. For every saint, there is a past.
For every sinner, there is a future.
2. Grace is not a license to sin,
but a reason not to.
3. No sanctification without justification,
no justification without sanctification.

JUSTIFICATION - SANCTIFICATION - GLORIFICATION



Author

James or Gk/Heb - *Jacob or Jakob*

Name of at least 3 prominent people in the Gospels...

1. James the son of Zebedee

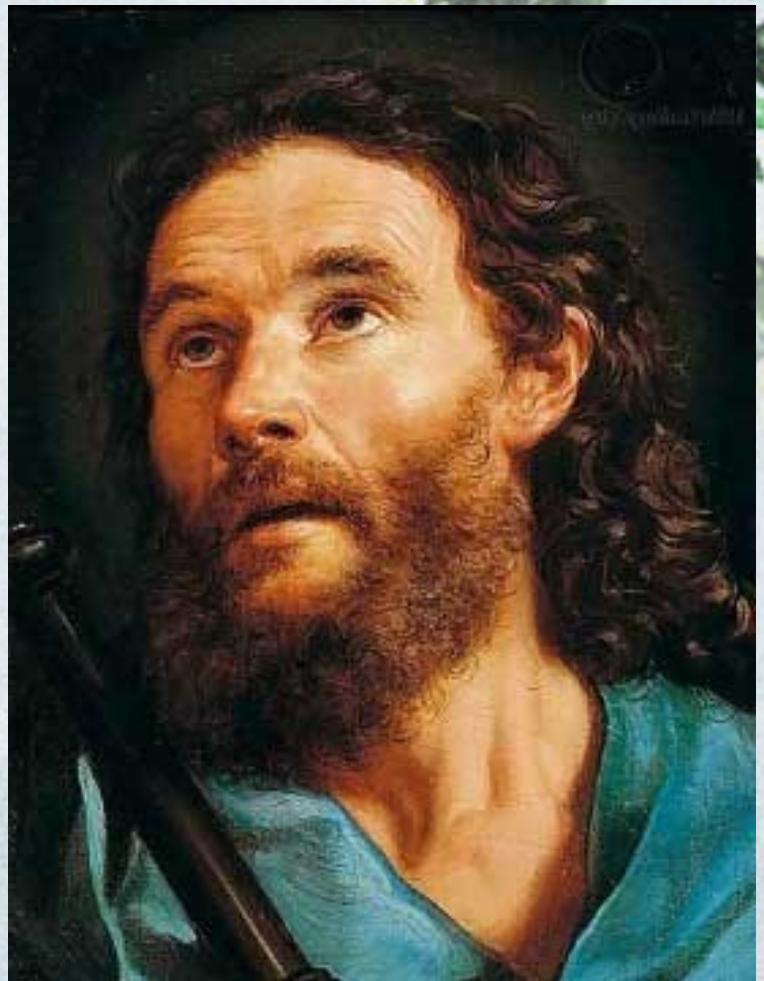
One of the 12 & Inner circle of 3 ...

Bro of John ...

Acts 12:2 Died King Herod about AD 44 ??

2. James the Less, son of Alphaeus

One of the 12 ...



Author

3. James the half-bro of Jesus (Matt 13:55)

Skeptic until post resurrection 1 Cor 15:7

Acts 1:14 Upper room ...

Gal 1:19 ... Acts 15:13; 21:18

Died AD 62 thrown & stoned ...

Alias:

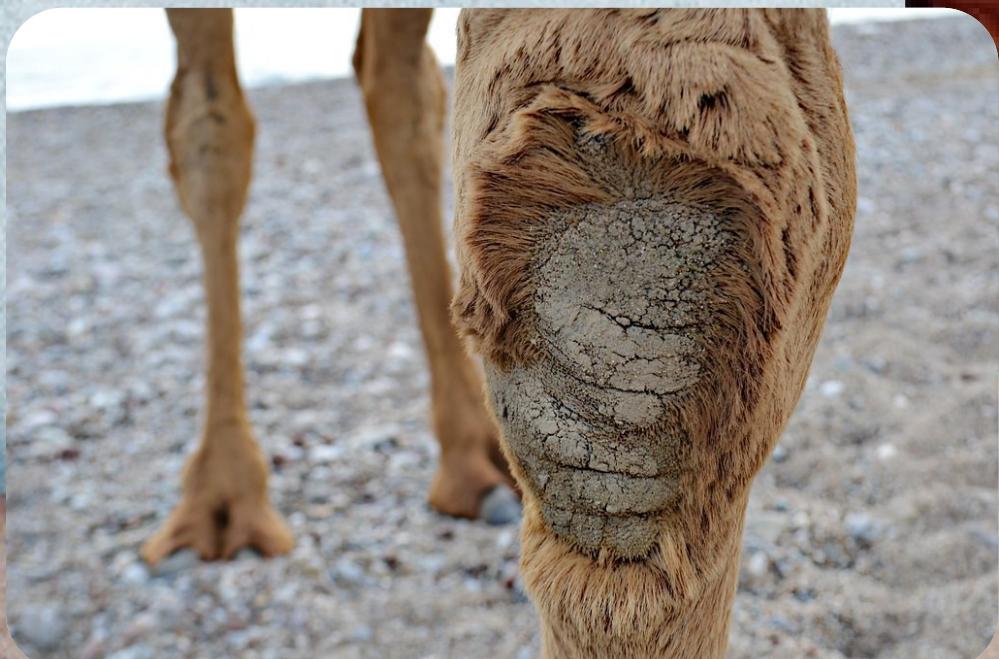
“James the Little”

“James the Just”

“James the Fair”

“James the Righteous”

“Camel Knee James”



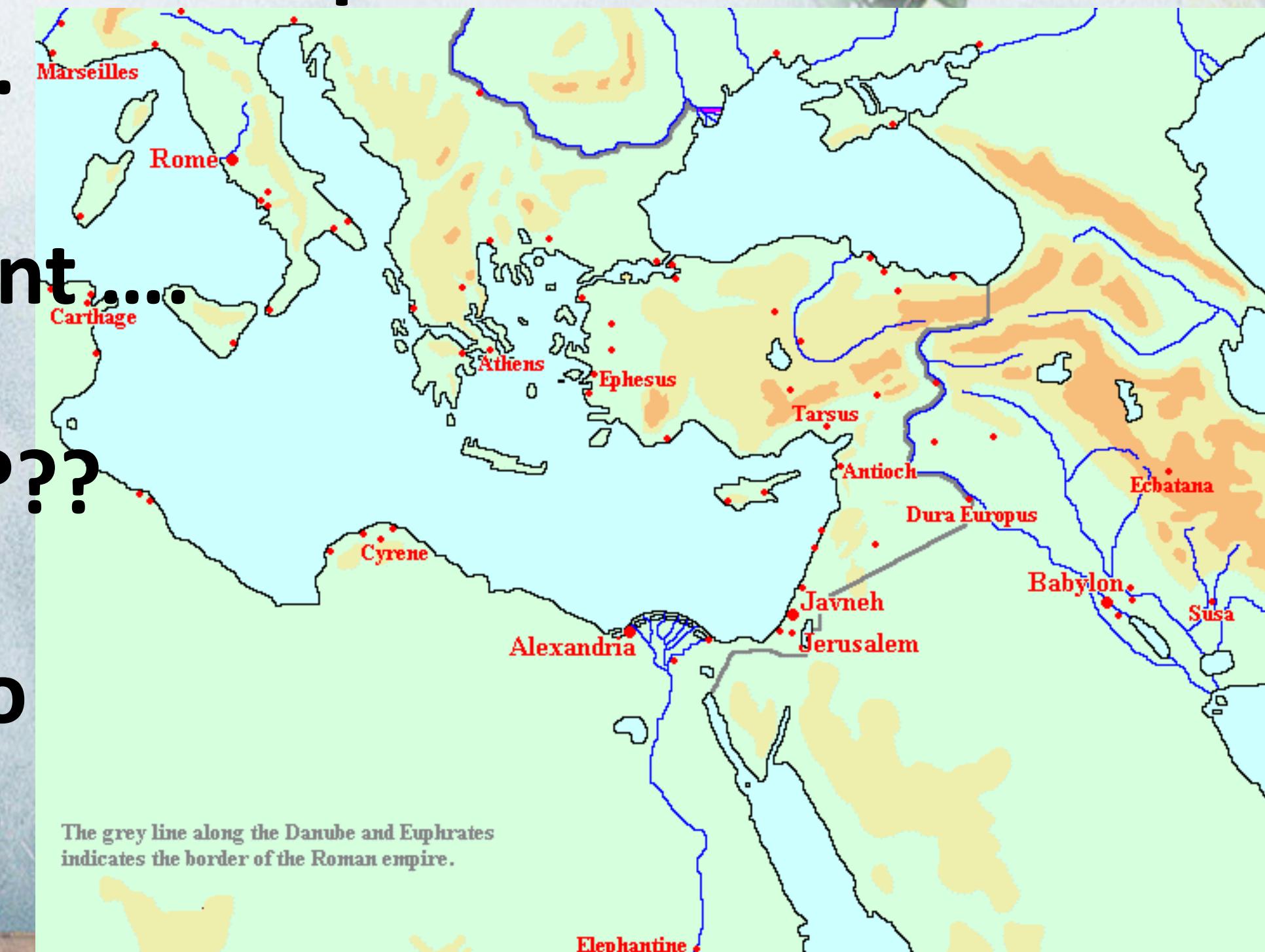
Background

- Early days of the Christian Church
 - ↳ 10 to 15 years after Christ...
 - ↳ Coming out of her 'Jewish Roots'
- Meeting place in
 - ↳ ? 'Synagogues' (Jam 2:2)
 - ↳ 'Homes'....
- Rejected by the ...
 - ↳ Gentiles because they are 'Jews' ...
 - ↳ Jews because they are 'Christians'



RECIPIENTS

- ➡ Scattered – Dispersed – Jewish Diaspora
- ➡ Economically challenged
- ➡ No written scripture yet
except for the Old Testament....
- ➡ How then to live out their
new found Christian Faith ???
- ➡ needed clear guidance ...
practical answers to
everyday life ...



PURPOSE

What is NOT in James:

- No Personal greetings or thanksgiving
- No Closing Benediction
- No Doctrines ...
 - ↳ Gospel ...
 - ↳ Death & Resurrection of Christ...
 - ↳ Baptism...
 - ↳ Lord's Supper ...

JAMES is a very PRACTICAL BOOK....

- ↳ Deals with everyday Christian Situational Ethics



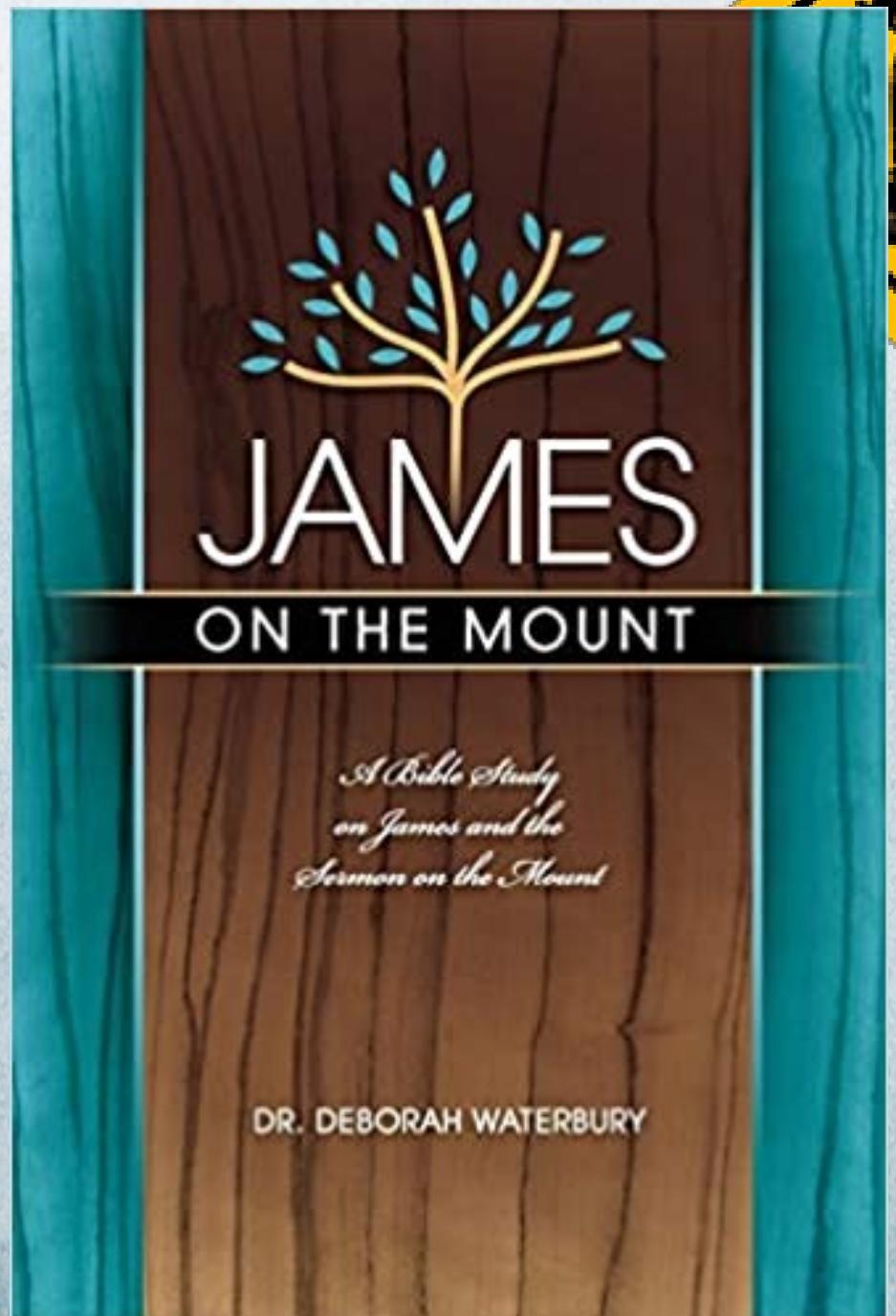
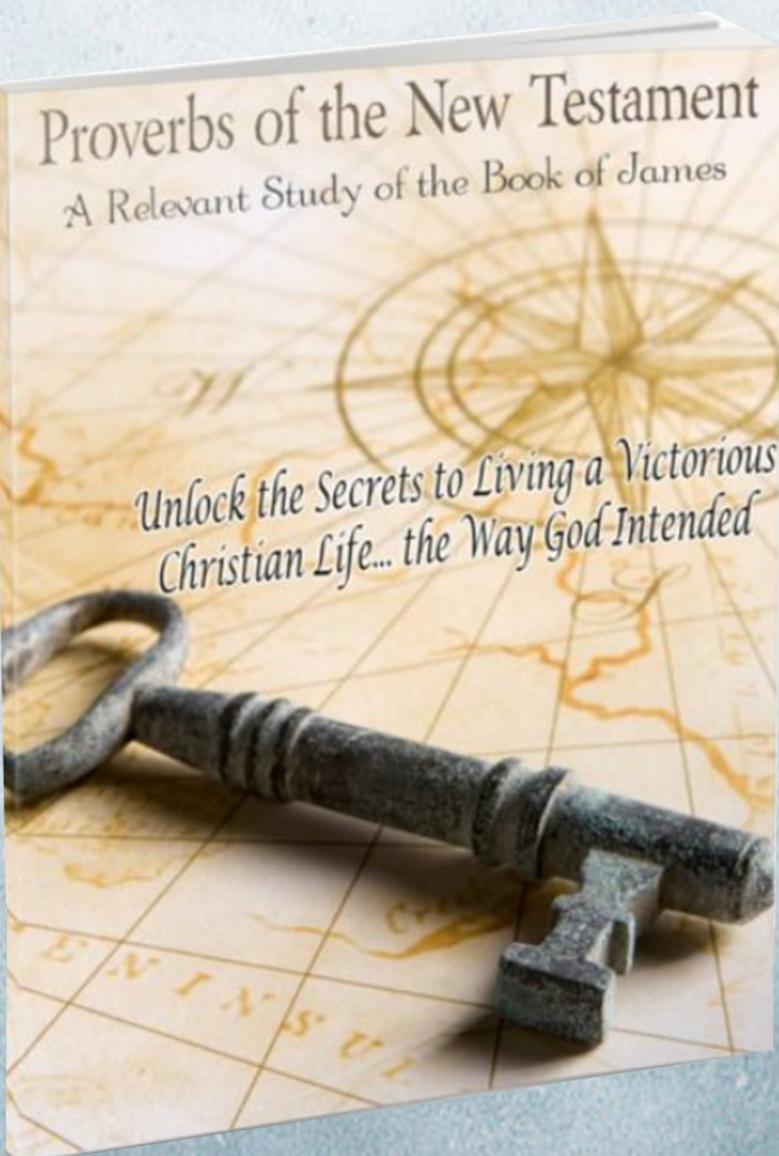
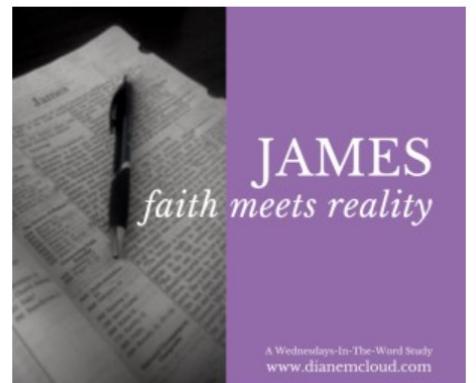
PURPOSE

JAMES called the :
New Testament Proverbs



**James—The New
Testament's Proverbs**

by Diane McLoud



James & the Sermon on the Mount

No	James	Topic	Matt 5 - 7
1	1:2	<i>Rejoice and be glad in your trials.</i>	5:10-12
2	1:4	<i>Be perfect and complete.</i>	5:48
3	1:5, 17	<i>Ask your good and wise God who loves to give good things.</i>	7:7-11
4	1:20	<i>Avoid sinful anger before a righteous God.</i>	5:22
5	1:22	<i>Be doers, not just hearers, of the word.</i>	7:2
6	2:5	<i>God's heart for the poor in the kingdom.</i>	
7	2:10	<i>The necessity of righteousness.</i>	5:20
8	2:13	<i>Mercy to the merciful.</i>	5:7
9	3:12	<i>Recognize them by their fruits.</i>	7:16
10	3:18	<i>Blessed are the peacemakers.</i>	5:9
11	4:2-3	<i>Ask and you will receive.</i>	7:7-8
12	4:4	<i>You can serve God and be friends with the world.</i>	6:24
13	4:13-14	<i>Blessed are the mourners.</i>	5:4
14	5:2-5	<i>Be slow to judge.</i>	7:1-5
15	4:13-14	<i>God's provision for tomorrow.</i>	6:34
16	5:10	<i>Do not lay up treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy.</i>	6:19
17	5:12	<i>The example of the prophets.</i>	5:12
18	5:12	<i>Do not swear oaths.</i>	5:33-37

Same can be done to Compare James and Proverbs

KEY THEMES

“True Faith, is a FAITH THAT WORKS!”

If we truly practice our faith it will be seen in:

How we

- Face Trials
- Treat People
- Speak & Act
- Deal with conflict & wealth



1. How We FACE Trials

1. How we FACE TRIALS

- Trials are a ‘Given’
 - v2 ‘When’ not ‘if’
- Trials - either a TEST or a TEMPTATION or BOTH
 - Tests are to build us up
 - Temptations are to bring us down
- Trials that we will face ...
 - Need WISDOM to discern ... Test or Temptation !!
 - Ask God ...
 - Ask God in faith ...

1. How We FACE Trials

1. How we FACE TRIALS

- Very few things God cannot do ...
 - ↳ v13 Temptation is one such thing
- God test people to build them up
 - ↳ perseverance
 - ↳ maturity ...
- Devil tempt people
 - ↳ to make them sin ...
- BUT God is still GOD....
 - ↳ Even our temptations are under God's control



1 Cor 10:13

*God is faithful;
he will not let you be
tempted beyond what
you can bear. But
when you are
tempted, he will also
provide a way out so
that you can stand up
under it.*

2. How We TREAT People

2. How we TREAT People....

- ‘Favouritism’ & ‘Discrimination’
- We are called to treat everyone the same
 - Irrespective of
 - economic ...
 - social ...
 - educational ...
 - racial status ...
 - appearance ...
 - gender ...
- 2:8 ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’*



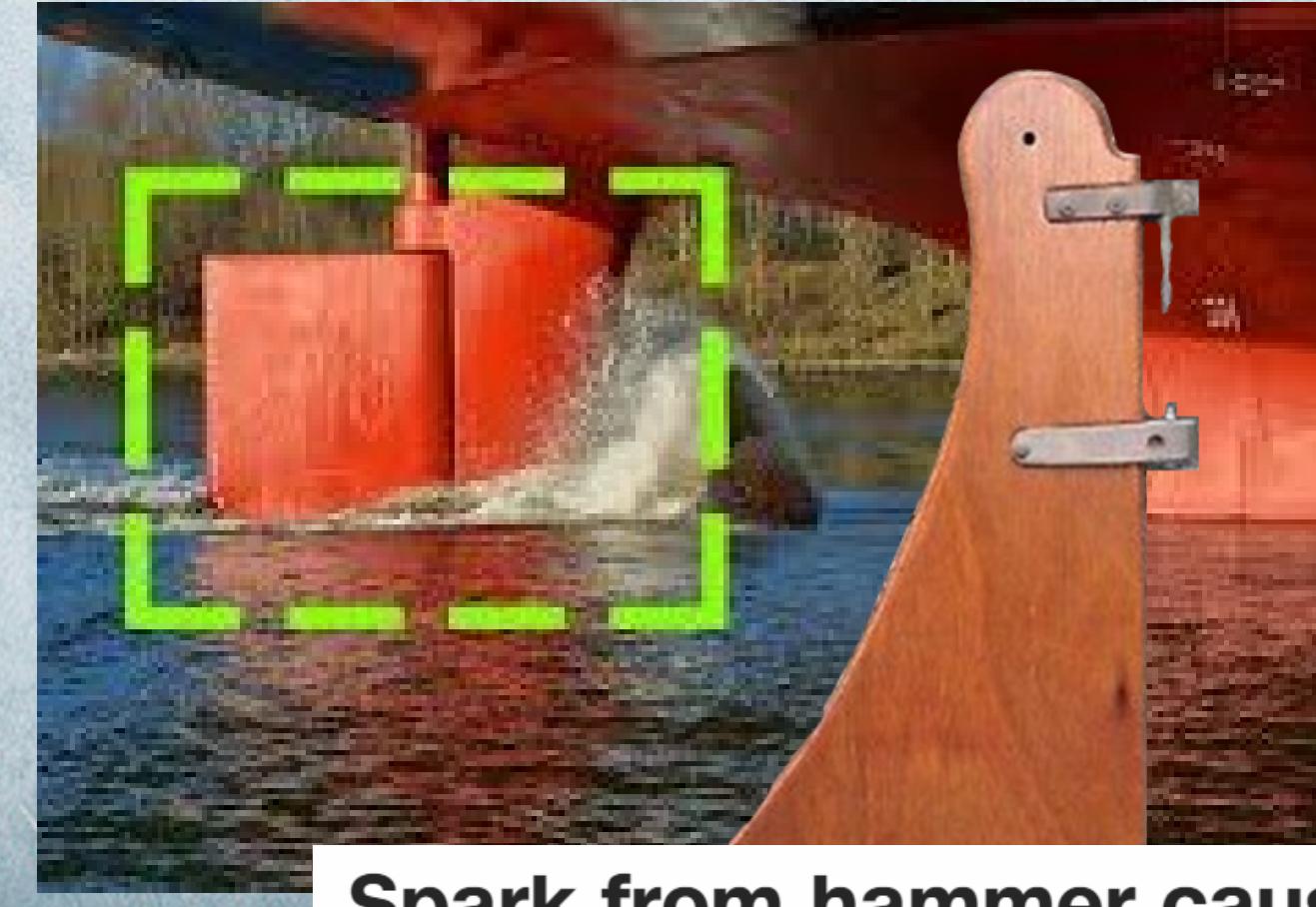
We are called to treat everyone the same
•Irrespective of

- economic ...
- social ...
- educational ...
- racial status ...
- appearance ...
- gender ...



3. How We Speak & Act

- James 1:19 *Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,*
- James 2:12 *Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom... (Consider Matt 12:36-37)*
- The tongue....*



Spark from hammer caused California's largest wildfire, agency says

By Ralph Ellis and Joe Sutton, CNN

⌚ Updated 2018 GMT (0418 HKT) June 7, 2019

3. How We Speak & Act

TONGUE – Blessings & Cursing

Prov 18:21

*The tongue has the power
of life and death...*

Prov 16:23

*A wise man's heart guides
his mouth...*

3:1-12

THE TONGUE

3. How We Speak & Act

TONGUE – Blessings & Cursing

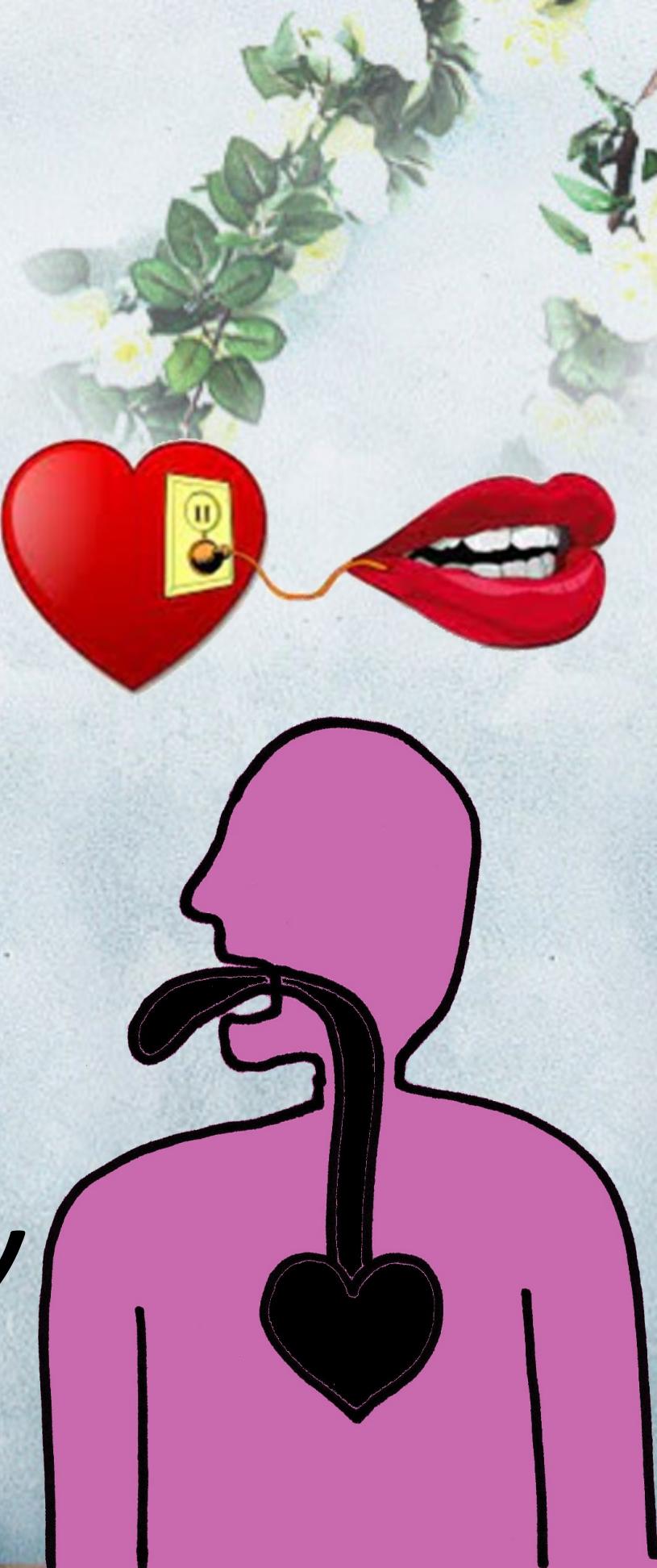
•Matt 12:34-37

“For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks....

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

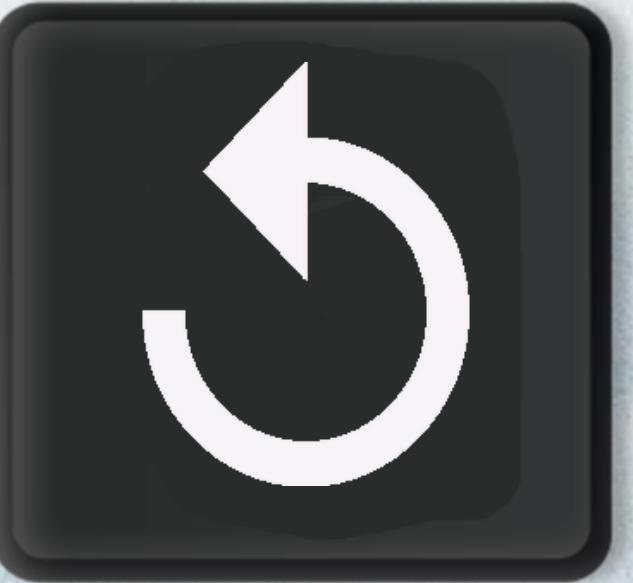
For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

•At least 30 bible verses - Tongue & Words ...



3. How We Speak & Act

What is similar with this 3 images ?



“if only”

3. How We Speak & Act

James 2:14-20

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?

Can such faith save him?

15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

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



3. How We Speak & Act

James 2:14-20

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?



3. How We Speak & Act

James 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him SHOW IT by his good life, BY DEEDS DONE in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Faith MUST BE VISIBLE

Faith MUST BE TANGIBLE

Faith MUST BE PALPABLE

Faith MUST BE LIVED OUT



3. How We Speak & Act

James 1:27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:

- ? Bible knowledge ...
- ? Church membership
- ? Tithing & Offering ...

to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



4. How We Deal With Conflict & Wealth

James 4:1-4

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God....

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

4. How We Deal With Conflict & Wealth

Solution to Conflict

a) Submitting - Draw Near to God ...

↳ God will draw near to you ...

b) Consecrating - Wash, Purify...

Be Humble

c) Resisting - The devil ...

↳ he WILL flee ...



4. How We Deal With Conflict & Wealth

Solution to Wealth issues

- Submitting - To God's Will ...
- Consecrating - Be humble, do not boast...
 - Do not be arrogant
 - Do what is right
 - Exploitation ...
 - Unfair Practices ...
 - Grumbling ...
- Resisting



APPLICATION :

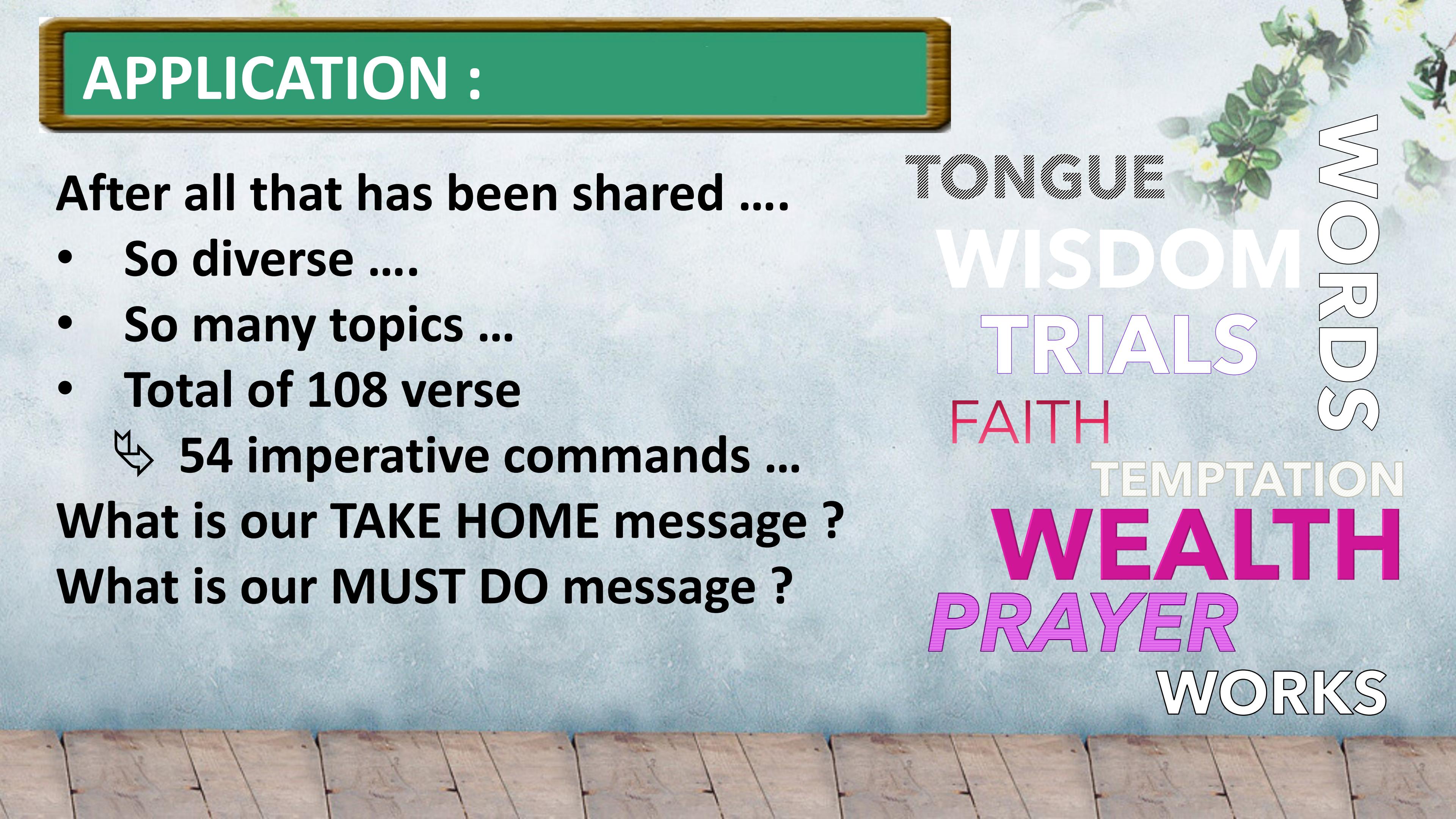
After all that has been shared

- So diverse
- So many topics ...
- Total of 108 verse
 - ↳ 54 imperative commands ...

What is our TAKE HOME message ?

What is our MUST DO message ?

TONGUE
WISDOM
TRIALS
FAITH
TEMPTATION
WEALTH
PRAYER
WORKS



APPLICATION :

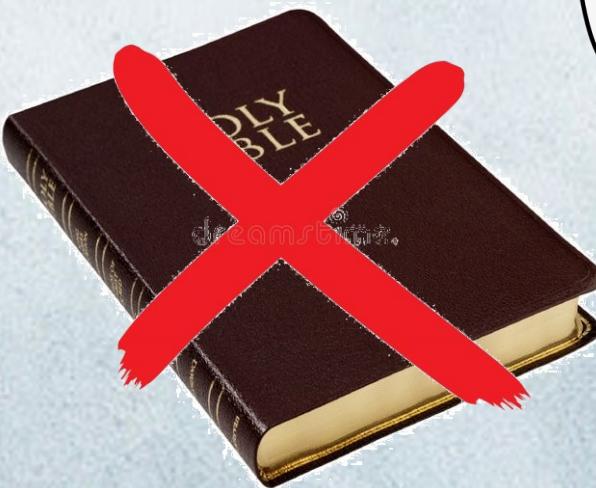
James main purpose for writing this letter was

To give Clear Guideline & Practical Answers to everyday living

They had no Complete BIBLE
‘trained’ Pastors

They only had possibly the Old Testament scrolls
Oral Teachings of the Apostles
and Disciples ...

James used ONE WORD 7 times in this letter

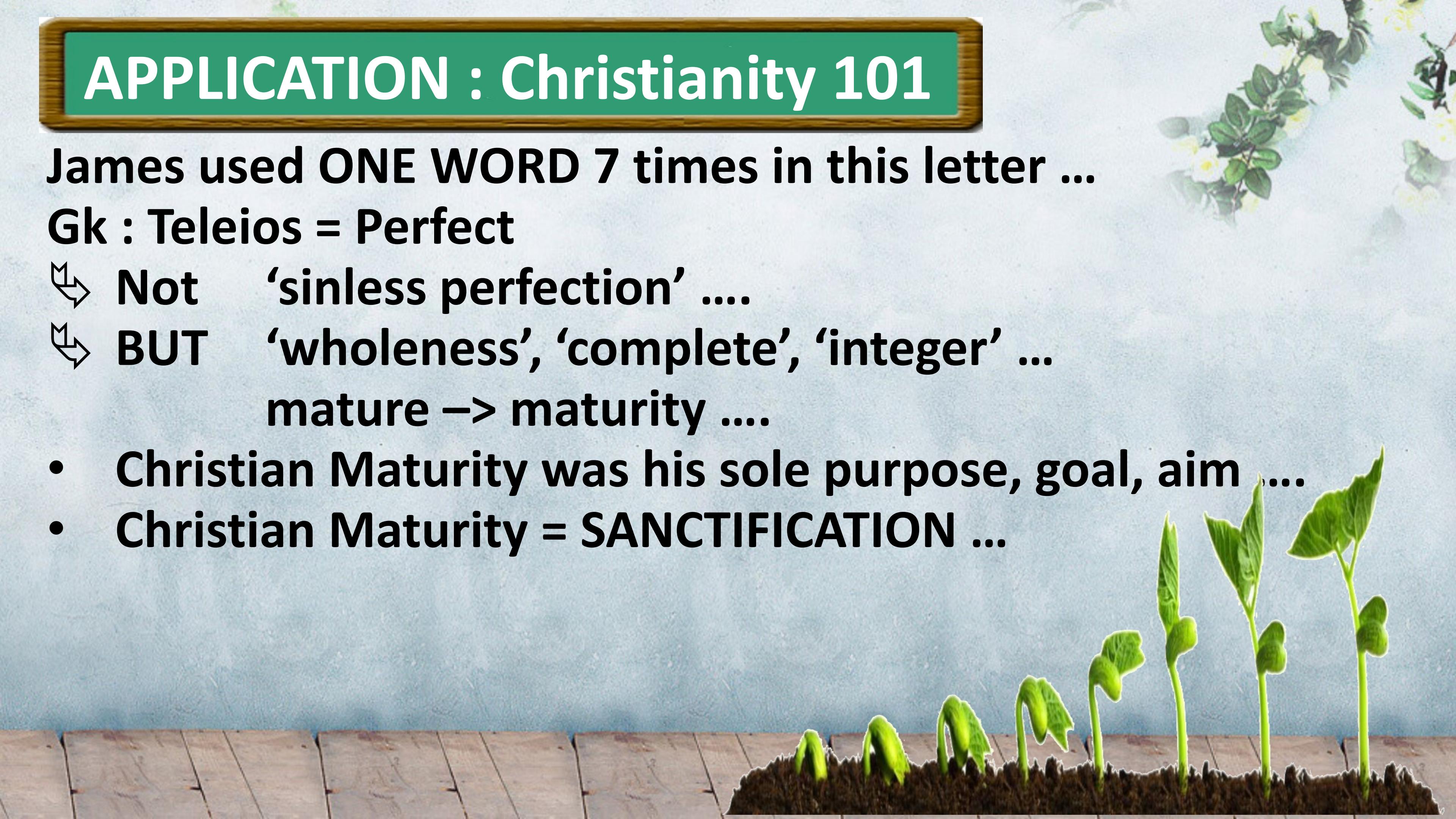


APPLICATION : Christianity 101

James used ONE WORD 7 times in this letter ...

Gk : Teleios = Perfect

- Not ‘sinless perfection’
- BUT ‘wholeness’, ‘complete’, ‘integer’ ...
mature → maturity
- Christian Maturity was his sole purpose, goal, aim
- Christian Maturity = SANCTIFICATION ...



APPLICATION : Christianity 101

James assumes we will have Trials ...

Problems, Struggles, Testing, Temptations

Starting point according to James 1:14

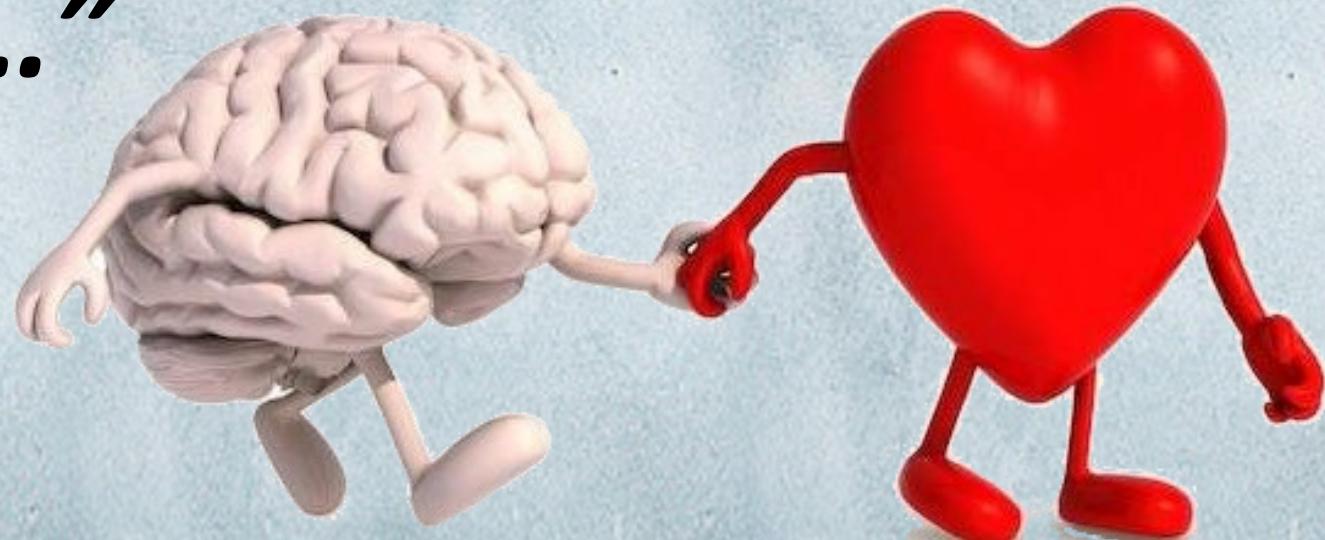
*“each one is tempted when,
by his OWN EVIL DESIRE,
he is dragged away and enticed...”*

Starts within

Our Heart ...

Our Mind

Satan did not start it but joyfully facilitate it



APPLICATION : Christianity 101

Same with Conflicts ...

The starting point according to James 4:1

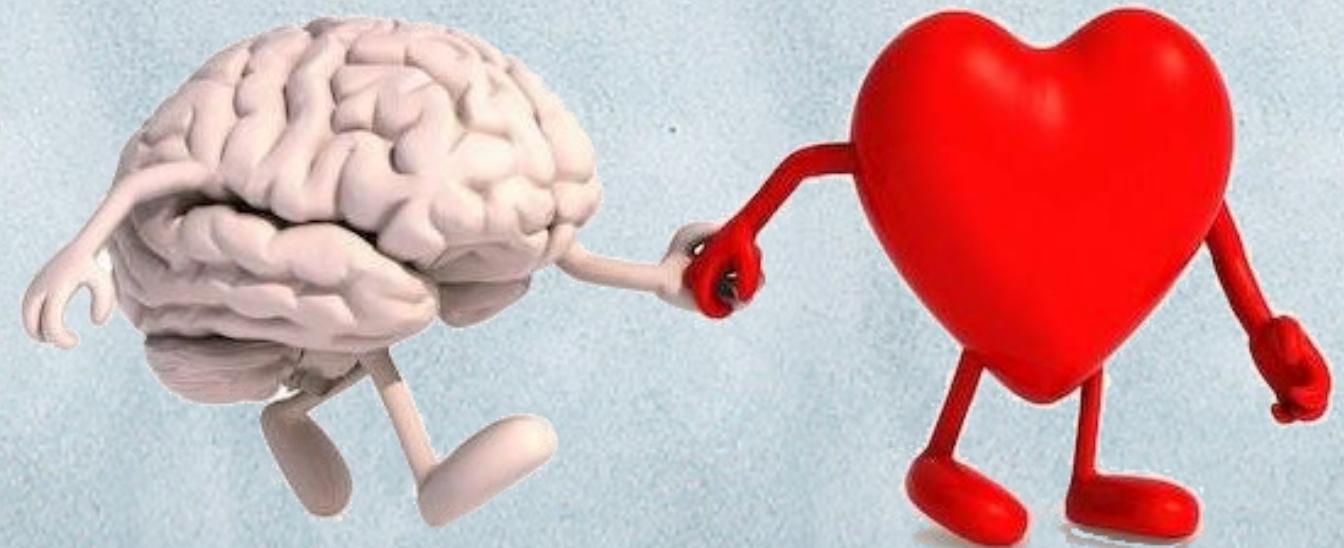
What causes fights and quarrels among you?

Don't they come from YOUR DESIRES that battle within you?

- Dissatisfaction
- Covetousness ...
- Greed ...

Nidus starts within Heart, Mind

Again Satan need not start it but just cheer you on



APPLICATION : Christianity 101

Main stumbling block to ➔ Sanctification ...
➔ Maturity

- ➔ is our flesh ...
- ➔ our old sinful nature ...

Only way to overcome this

Gal 5:16 So I say, LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature....

Paul's struggle : Rom 7:14-25



APPLICATION : Christianity 101

James also knows the early Christians will not be able to achieve it on their own

FIVE TIMES he told them to ASK ...

ASK for wisdom

Not only to ask But

- to ASK God for help, perseverance ...
- to ASK in FAITH....
- to ASK in FAITH, believing ...
- to ASK with RIGHT MOTIVES

Romans 10:17
FAITH comes by hearing, and hearing by the WORD OF GOD. NKJV

APPLICATION : Christianity 101

But how do you ASK ?

James closes his letter by focusing on the whole area of PRAYER.

From 5:13-18, SEVEN TIMES – Pray, Prayer, Prayed ...

- Pray when you have conflicts
- Pray when you have health issues ...
- Pray in FAITH ...
- Prayer of a “RIGHTEOUS MAN”
is powerful & effective
- Pray for ONE ANOTHER ...

*Rom 3:10 "There is
no one righteous,
not even one;..."*

