

The Book of James

Jas. 1:16-18

Faith

IN

ACTION!

Jas. 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 Of his own will begat he us with **the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

We continue looking at the Christian and his battles, realizing what a believer's relationship with faith looks like:

1. A believer is saved by grace through faith;
2. A believer lives life by walking by faith;
3. A believer learns to be tested by faith.

I. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BATTLES, 1:1-16

A. The Testings of the Christian Life, 1:1-12

1. Testings are for a Purpose, 1:1-11
2. Testings are for our Profit, 1:12

B. The Temptations of the Christian Life, 1:13-16

1. The Source of Temptation, 1:13-15

a. What We Must Realize, 1:13

b. What We Must Recognize, 1:14-15

(1) The Mother of Sin, 1:14-15a

(2) The Method of Sin, 1:15b

(3) The Maturity of Sin, 1:15c

The Book of James provides information about the challenges for believers simply trying to live life. The “battles” are normal events for the believer and staying faithful while confronting them is termed as “blessed,” while the believer is promised a “crown of life.” The source of temptations concludes with a command to stay focused and do not stray from a path of faith.

2. The Subtlety of Temptation, 1:16

Jas. 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

- ❖ The command to not “err” is tenderly expressed as an encouragement to “beloved brethren.”
- ❖ The admonition is not to wander or go astray.

ERR, *verb intransitive* [Latin erro.]

1. To wander from the right way; to deviate from the true course or purpose.
2. To miss the right way, in morals or religion; to deviate from the path or line of duty; to stray by design or mistake.
3. To mistake; to commit error; to do wrong from ignorance or inattention.
4. To wander; to ramble.

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/err>

- ❖ The Greek word used in verse 16 is related to the English word “planet” which means “wandering star.”

Original Word: πλανάω **Part of Speech:** Verb – imperative

Transliteration: planaó

Definition: to cause to wander, to wander **Usage:** I lead astray, deceive, cause to wander.

planáō – properly, go astray, get off-course; to *deviate* from the correct path (circuit, course), *roaming* into error, *wandering*; (passive) be misled.

[(*planáō*) is the root of the English term, *planet* ("wandering body"). This term nearly always conveys the *sin* of roaming (for an exception – see Heb 11:38).]

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4105.htm>

- ❖ Do not err, or stray from the path of faithfulness, by abiding to the Word of God.

II. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BIBLE, 1:17-27

A. God's Word is Likened to a Gift, 1:17-18

1. A Gift that Brings Divine Light, 1:17

a. The Nature of the Gifts, 1:17a-c

(1) Their Monopoly, 1:17a

“Every good gift...”

❖ God only gives good gifts.

Mt. 7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, **how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things** to them that ask him?

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? ***there is none good but one, that is, God.***

(2) Their Majesty, 1:17b-c

(a) Godlike in Their Purity, 1:17b
“...and every perfect gift is from above...”

- ❖ God gives His children perfect gifts which include eternal life and the Word of God.

(b) Godlike in Their Perfection, 1:17c
“...and cometh down from the Father of lights...”

- ❖ The origin of the gifts of God reflects His character.

b. The Nature of the Giver, 1:17d-e

- ❖ In describing the nature of the Giver, two astronomical terms are used:

(1) He is Unchallengeable, 1:17d

“...with whom is no variableness...”

Original Word: παραλλαγή **Transliteration:** parallagé

Definition: change. **Usage:** a change, variation, mutation. <https://biblehub.com/greek/3883.htm>

- ❖ This astronomical term is a measurement as seen from two different points.

(2) He is Unchangeable, 1:17e

“..., neither shadow of turning.”

Original Word: τροπή **Transliteration:** trope

Definition: a turning **Usage:** a turning, change, mutation.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5157.htm>

- ❖ This astronomical term regarding the revolution of heavenly orbs. There is not even a shadow of variation with God. He is unchangeable.

Mal. 3:6 For **I am the LORD, I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Heb. 13:8 **Jesus Christ the same** yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

- ❖ Believers can trust God to have nothing to do with sin and temptation, yet, to have confidence in God's holiness and everything good.

2. A Gift that Brings Divine Life, 1:18

- ❖ Temptation to sin is not from God for He is good and the Giver of good things to believers.

- ❖ God is consistently and completely righteous and believers have His nature when born-again.
 - a. According to the Will of God, 1:18a
“Of his own will begat he us...”
- ❖ The source of salvation is the Creator. Everything that is needed for a sinner to be saved, originates with, and is provided, by God.

Jn. 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Jn. 6:44 **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

b. According to the Word of God, 1:18b
“...with the word of truth...”

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

c. According to the Wisdom of God, 1:18c
“...that **we** should be a kind of firstfruits of
his creatures.”

- ❖ When sinners are born again, as new creatures in Christ, they are “firstfruits” that are expected to live holy lives reflecting the Savior.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man *be* in Christ, *he is a new creature***: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Summary

- ❖ Believers are admonished not to wander or go astray.
- ❖ God only gives good gifts.
- ❖ Believers can trust God to have nothing to do with sin and temptation, yet, to have confidence in God's holiness and everything good.
- ❖ When sinners are born again, as new creatures in Christ, they are "firstfruits" that are expected to live holy lives reflecting the Savior.

Conclusion

Jn. 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. ...**

28 And **I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish**, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.