### Lessons From The Book Of James **Dealing With** ▶ Date: AD 45 and AD 62 ► Likely the earlier part of this period. Author: **Temptations** ► Appears to be James, the half-brother of Jesus. (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). **JAMES 1:2-4** Did not believe in Jesus during His ministry. (John 7:5) ► After the resurrection and appearance of Jesus to him, James became a disciple. (1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 1:14) ► Leader in the Jerusalem church. (Galatians 2:9; Acts 15:13ff) When Paul visited Jerusalem, he brought greetings to James. (Acts 21:18)

### Lessons From The Book Of James

- Recipients: Dispersed Jewish Christians.
  - ▶ Believers of Jewish origin.
  - ► "... to the twelve tribes which are of the Dispersion ..." James 1:1
  - ►Addressed as "brethren" 15 times (ASV).
  - ►Possibly those driven out of Jerusalem following the death of Stephen. Acts 8:1,4; Acts 11:19-20

## Lessons From The Book Of James ▶Recipients:

- ► Christians (from Jewish background), whose faith in Jesus Christ would be tested by the <u>Gentile society</u> in which they lived.
- Christians (from Jewish background), whose faith in Jesus Christ would be tested by their own countrymen.
- ► Most were poor and being oppressed by the rich. (James 2:6-7)
- ► Temptation:
  - Desire to avoid pain.
  - ► Desire to enjoy pleasure.

# Summary Of The Book 5 Chapter 1: Trials build mature character. James 1:2-4 All are subject to temptation, these are not from God, but result from man's evil desires and eventually leads to spiritual death (1:13-17). A man must be a hearer and a doer – if

- ► A man must be a hearer and a doer If he is to be blessed (1:25).
- ▶ Practical application caring for the fatherless and destitute widows (1:27).

## Temptations6All are subject to temptations. Luke 17:1"It is impossible but that occasions of stumbling<br/>should come; but woe unto him, through whom<br/>they come!"No person is immune. 2 Timothy 3:12Manifold temptations. 1 Peter 1:6Not the same for all. "by craftiness in deceitful<br/>scheming" (NASV) (Ephesians 4:14; 6:11)

- Numerous devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
   Your case is not unique. cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13
  - ► Rich or poor. James 1:9-11
  - Young or old. Titus 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:22

### **Temptations**

### Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptation is not sin. Proverbs 1:10, "My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not.'
- ▶ Sin is committed when desire controls.
- cf. James 1:13-15
- "Lust" (epithumia) "desire, craving, longing." ► Whether good or bad determined by context.
  - ►Good Jesus, Luke 22:15; Paul, Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:17 ▶Bad – Cain, Genesis 4:7; David,

  - 2 Samuel 11:1-27

### Temptations

### Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted. Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1-11
  - ▶Weary. John 4:6
  - ▶Thirsty. John 4:7; 19:28
  - ► Hungry. Matthew 4:2
  - ▶Because He was tempted, He is able to help us. Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:16

### Temptations

### Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

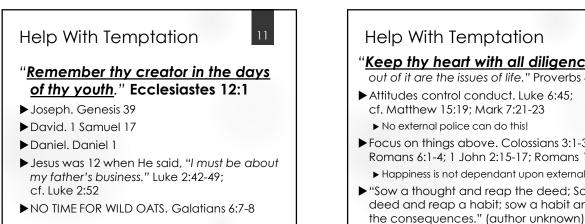
- Temptations are not punishment. cf. Hebrews 12:7-11
- ► Faith is proved or tested. 1 Peter 1:6; 4:12
- Success results in patience ... Hope. James 1:3, 12; Romans 5:3-4
- ► James 1:4 May be "perfect" (teleion) "properly, brought to its end, finished; lacking nothing necessary to completeness; perfect." (Thayer)
- No temptation greater than we can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13

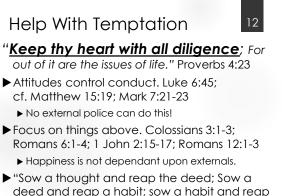
### Help With Temptation

### God's word rightly applied. 2 Timothy 2:15;

### Jeremiah 10:23

- ▶ Psalms 119:9, "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed (thereto) according to thy word."
- ▶ Psalms 119:11, "Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."
- ▶ Psalms 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path."
- ▶ Proverbs 4:5, "Get wisdom, get understanding; Forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth."
- ► Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus used the Scriptures.





### Help With Temptation



Worship God regularly in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

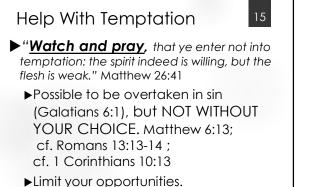
▶ "For **a day** in thy courts is better than

**a thousand.** I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Psalms 84:10)

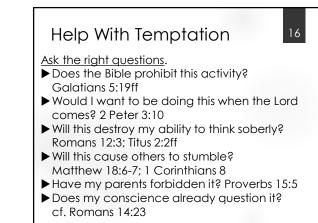
- Emphasis not on duration, but intensity of joy.
- ► The sincerity of your worship makes a difference. John 4:24; Psalms 122:1
- ► Satisfaction to the soul. cf. Hebrews 10:24-25

### Help With Temptation 14 Watch the company you keep. Proverbs 1:10, "My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not." Be careful of peer pressure. cf. Psalms 1:1; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:33 ▶Proverbs 13:20, "He who walks with wise

men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed." NKJV (cf. Proverbs 1:7)



► Watch and resist. 1 Peter 5:8; cf. James 4:7



### Dealing With Temptations

James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which (the Lord) promised to them that love him."

James 4:7, "Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you."