

RECEIVING & KEEPING *THE HARVEST*

BEYOND
THE
FLESH

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BEYOND
THE
FLESH



**"IF ANY OF
YOU LACKS
WISDOM,
LET HIM ASK
GOD"**

JAMES 1:5

BOOK OF JAMES

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Jesus is beyond the flesh

What's coming in the harvest and great revival is beyond any one man's control. It's beyond the control-spirit because it's the move of the Almighty God. We've read of this in the prophecy of revelation that many seals are being open, many trumpets are being blown (*for those who don't discern the quiet seals*), and many bowls full of the eternal will are going to be emptied upon mankind and the earth. These are all moves of God.

Satan, desperately desiring to hinder the move of God will stir men and women, boys, and girls, in deep rebellion, even religious rebellion. He sows deep seeds of selfishness, and personal ambition, for the purpose of blinding people to the moves of God. This darkness in men's hearts and minds is what is called "flesh". This is Satan's strategy to keep the world from moving along with God in the present.

So then, putting off this flesh, through constant repentance, allowing ourselves to be under God's prophetic light and scanning, becomes the major way we live prepared for the moves of God. This is why we read the Bible, pray, fellowship, and do all we do. But what's even more important in repentance is not just what we do, but how we do it. Doing work is not what's

most important but doing good works and not dead works is what is most important.

The major way we stay prepared for God's moves is constant repentance, because God is vast. He could have moved in a particular way yesterday, but can decide to move in another way today, or through someone else.

Certainly, more spiritual authority and capacity will be vested into those who do not build their own empires in the name of doing the work of God, but build the Lord's army, through the fire of the Spirit of God.

When the fire of the Lord comes on the day of judgement, every man's work will be revealed of what sort it is. So beloved, build by the Spirit, and not with flesh. If you are saved, be the circumcision that you are; worship by the Spirit; glory in Christ, and put no confidence in the flesh. But if you are not saved, then, please, be saved, be spiritually circumcised today, simply believe in Jesus as your God and Saviour.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

This book reminds us that the entrance of worldly ways, demonic oppressions of Satan, ungodly memories of the past, and inordinate ambitions of the future are through the flesh, the old man. The flesh is a system or nature of personal selfishness and ungodliness.

So then, to walk with God, practicing Jesus, and being led by the Spirit involves constant and continuous growth in repentance, which is putting away of the flesh. This is how we position ourselves for the fullness of the Spirit and accuracy with God.

This book is also a prophetic and practical study through the ***Book of James***.

My prayer is for the eyes of your heart to be flooded with visions and revelations of the Lord Jesus.

Tolu Cole
June 2023

INTRODUCTION INTO CONSECRATIONS & GODLY PRACTICES

One of the major things to learn about consecration is that the principle of each consecration is rooted in the specific grace we are consecrating to. Jesus is the fullness of grace.

This is God's work of righteousness. Once we receive a grace from God, what we need to use that grace or operate that grace is rooted in the grace itself. This is how God makes things.

The fruit of graces are already contained in the gifts of the grace. The Holy Spirit will use our knowing and believing that we already have the gift, and 'the how' contained in the gift, even though we don't yet know it cognitively, or understand it fully, to encourage us to want to use these graces, and actually use these graces through actions.

When we take these actions, using the gifts, we begin to discover the "HOWS" that are embedded in the WHAT.

It's like unravelling a package, and after doing that, we can then know what's inside and share what's inside with others. This is possibly why it was said that "JESUS BEGAN TO DO AND TEACH". When Jesus was doing the thing, He had an

experiential understanding, and a working principle of that thing.

When we practice something, when we use it, we start to discover its working and operating principle, then, we can teach it. Our practice of truth bring us into deeper dispensations of truth.

There are many of us waiting and worrying about the Christ-life, the anointing, marriage, business, and all, meanwhile, all we have to do is believe what the Lord has said concerning these, and start practicing them, which will unravel the gifts.

Let's decide to practice and do everything that we know of God.

Personally, having just completed a study in the book of Kings, where the Lord taught me that He is personally and practically sovereign over human history and experience. This is what it means that He is king, He is Jesus, He is God.

Yet, this Sovereignty of His, is manifested on earth, amongst men, through the spiritual and practical partnership of men, who know His heart and His prophetic will.

In the doing of this will, these men will face many oppositions, because they live in a culture that's full of division and

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duplicity. It's a relativistic culture that has a lot of opinions, many ungodly opinions at that. Discerning God's heart, presence, voice, and will becomes the greatest thing needed to navigate these times, these last days.

In Paul's words; "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:15-21,

Here, Paul is giving us the prophetic code of navigation for these present times. When we move this way, we will go beyond our selfish tendencies and walk in the deeper things of God, with God.

Walking in wisdom is directly linked to understanding the times. Walking in wisdom is both understanding the ordinations of God and the generations of God. It's walking in both the apostolic and the prophetic. It's both recognizing the big picture and also the details. It's recognizing the glory of

God through His Will and recognizing the kinds of evil plaguing us in these times. It's when we walk with these realms of understanding that we are most accurate.

What this means is being filled with the Holy Spirit. That's the reformation culture. That's the kingdom culture. What it means is a life of living under the government of God happily and freely. This means living under restraint normally. This means not getting into the frivolity of the present age, but being witnesses of God in the present age. Essentially, we are relatable but not sinful. This is the essence of the practice of the prophetic Will.

As sons of light, like the Bereans or sons of Issachar, we would soon discern some of the popular ignorances and prevailing darkneses of the time. Let's discern the times. We have demonic spirits perpetuating evils, some of which are **(a) cold formalism (b) hot hedonism (c) fleshly extremism (d) high opinions (e) lack of covenant commitment (f) empty simplicity (g) unnecessary complexity (h) lack of focus (i) pluralism (j) fleshly externalism (k) lack of deep vision and purpose....**

After God has first called us to be with Him (Mark 3:12), and then, sending us out to preach, (after equipping us with the Holy Spirit and the Word, so that we can discern His prophetic praise), the next thing He begins to show us is the true

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nature of the times and the culture, as God sees it. This is the perspective that Jesus brought to John in the book of revelation. Everything was going on as it was, but there was a way that God saw it, and that's the perspective that Jesus appeared to show John. This is the prophetic witness, that allows us to reign in the earthly realm of practice. We are reigning in the spiritual realm in heavenly places, yet, we are also called to reign in the earthly realm, manifesting the glory as sons of light.

Essentially, what this looks like practically is a life of praising the Lord always, because God will get glory always from us, our total allegiance is to Him, and secondly, we would be walking in submission with the Body of Christ, generally and locally. We wouldn't do and walk in a manner that upsets the body of Christ generally, and we wouldn't also be unduly rebellious from the local Body of Christ practically, not because of them primarily but because of Christ. This is "***submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ***".

INTRODUCTION TO JAMES BY THE SPIRIT

(1) HOW TO SEE MYSELF

Addressing identity crisis and purposelessness

The book of Kings ends with God's people in exile, with God having a remnant in mind. That's simply where the book of James starts and where we find ourselves today.

We are in the world, but not of the world. The ground we find ourselves is "Egypt" and "Babylon", yet where we belong is Zion. Egypt is the place that seeks to oppress God's people, keeping them from freedom in God, and Babylon is the place that seeks to keep God's people in bondage and in addition, change their identity entirely.

For us, as believers today, what this means is that spiritually, we are in Zion, but politically, socially and physically, we are still in Egypt and Babylon. We are in a present Greco-Roman culture, captured as America or Britain or whatever dominating world culture there is today.

It is to these God's people, in the world but not of the world, who need to live practically in the world but prophetically according to God's Will that the epistle of James is written.

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This, I believe, is the witness that the Holy Spirit is bringing to us here.

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.” James 1:1.

In Christ, there are different tribes. Just like there are different tribes in Israel, it means that in Christ, the economy of God, there are different assignments, callings, and gifts. It's through these different tribes that the perfect government of God comes. This book of James is a highly prophetic word to us, but very practical in its approach because its burden is not simply revival but reformation. Its burden is the living out of the kingdom of God here on earth.

This book of James is to the twelve tribes, those who have unique destinies in God, and unique equipment in the spirit. James identifies himself as a servant of God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ. James is bringing an apostolic and prophetic witness, so that we can be most effective in our witness and shining. James is setting forth for us the covenant life in kingdom practice. This is being united with Christ and daily communing with God.

(2) HOW TO REJOICE IN TRIALS

ADDRESSING THIS PRESENT COLD FORMALISM & DEAD RELIGION.

The first thing that James addresses is our disposition towards facing opposition in this present world, and our reaction to this. James starts by addressing this cold formalism. This lack of joy, because of challenges, that becomes the root of the unnecessary seeking of inordinate entertainment.

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” James 1:2-4.

We come into this world seeing a lot of terrible things happening, and because of this, we agree with the already prevailing darkness that seeks to shut down the spirit man and just be simply cold, or formal. When we become born again, we sometimes think that there wouldn't be challenges, or maybe when we are sanctified, or maybe when we are specially anointed, but beloved, there will be challenges here on earth, even though we are saved, sanctified and anointed. We are the ones who have been saved from the world, from

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the flesh, from the fallenness of the body, and we are the ones to instruct the world on how to move with us.

There will be trials, the issue now is our disposition to the trials. Before our actions, is our disposition. When we act, we are to act from a specific disposition. That disposition is a knowing. Though we've been given grace, and graces as the "**twelve tribes**", and since the graces themselves cannot be affected by the world or by Satan, what he tries to affect then is our faith. Our faith is how we cling to the grace and how we know that we have the grace, and the graces. That's what Satan tries to attack with lies, and that's what the world tried to attack with lusts and seductions. This is the main spiritual warfare. This is resisting temptations to sin, and removing unnecessary weights that easily besets us based on our upbringing, social class, gender, societal bias and all such things.

While Satan brings temptations and we face trials in the world, the Lord sanctifies them and uses them as His means of grace, to refine us in the graces He has given us. He uses these trials as a platform to convict and convince us of the need for us to use and practice the graces that He has given us. This is what we call the discipline of God and the dealing of the Holy Spirit. This is the highest means of grace.

It's possible to go through a bad situation, either it be demonic

attack, or worldly issues, or personal moral failure (*1 John 2:1*). Without knowing that God is able to sanctify that ‘human experience’ and convert it as a tool in His hand to refine us, we would be in despair, but when we realize that God is able to do this, but not only that, for His children, God is always doing this, then, we would be able to be at peace, praise God, and go through every situation with the deep knowing that God is at work through it. This knowing is the victory of our faith. It’s the passing of the testing of our faith. The result of this is steadfastness and solidity. The result of this is character. The result of this is going deeper.

According to the world, and the thinking of the world, where sin abounds, less grace abounds, but according to the thinking and way of God, where sin abounds, grace abounds much more (*Romans 5:20*).

“Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” Romans 5:20.

According to many people, once there is a problem with someone, or a challenge with something, their sense of enthusiasm goes down and they want to withdraw, which is the place of inconsistency and lack of steadiness that Satan wants to get them into so that he can deal with them, and cause more despair. This is why increase in natural or carnal

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knowledge doesn't necessarily mean increase in faith, and reception of grace. It's increase in spiritual revelation that equates to increase in reception of grace. In this last days, there's a lot of carnal knowledge, and misguided knowledge, which is leading to more and more depression and anxiety, because many people do not know what to do with these knowledges and how to use them, in order to rejoice.

It's this rejoicing that's the tone of faith. It's the attitude with which faith receives. When we are enthusiastic, we would most likely be favored and be given something. We position ourselves to receive practically when we are enthusiastic. Truly, with joy, we draw out of the wells of salvation.

Jesus received revelation through rejoicing.

“In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings

desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” Luke 10:21-24,

Jesus was telling us that the disposition of little children is one of joy, and rejoicing. This rejoicing is powered by the knowing and light that God works all things for the good of them that love Him and are called according to His purpose. This is what Joseph meant when he told his brothers; **“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today”** Genesis 50:20.

In Christ, when we face challenges, they are stepping stones for us to get closer to God, closer to good people, away from evil people, and more effective in our assignment in the world. So then, trials are not the issue, it’s our “counting” and “knowing” that are the issue. The proof of what we really know is how we respond to Issues. That’s why it’s possible to know a person by the fruit of their lips, and by the fruit of their lives. Their responses show what’s within them. It’s this inward transformation that’s the goal of sanctification, and tribulation (**Romans 5:1-11**). In Romans 5:1-11, Paul tells us the reason for joy is our salvation. Essentially, our justification, knowing that God is pleased with us, our transformation, knowing that the Holy Spirit is working in and through us, and ultimately, God Himself, knowing that we have a God who

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alone is God. What a joy! It's the highest and most supreme joy.

So then, the knowledge of trials, temptations, failures, and oppositions shouldn't take our joy, it's not even able to take our joy, it's a lie of the enemy that says it should be able to take our joy, rather, it should help us manifest our joy. When we manifest joy in the midst of trials, we are manifesting the kingdom of God (***Romans 14:17***).

When we continue to rejoice and practice the knowing of the Spirit not the knowing of the flesh, we will follow the quickest path to perfection, even with not as much engagement in the discipline of prayer, because this very attitude and disposition is the spirit of prayer, it's faith, it's trusting the Holy Spirit practically and really, not just theoretically, and it makes us pray out of genuine faith, not out of fear.

This is how to rejoice in God, and it's one of the most and first practical things to do in walking by the Spirit practically. It's the life of rejoicing and praising.

(3) HOW TO RECEIVE WISDOM

Addressing this present Duplicity

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, *who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.* But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” James 1:5-8,

We live in a very pluralistic generation that has a lot of opinions, and a lot of diverging strong opinions. This is because opinions are gotten from feelings and trends, rather than from God’s Word. When we get our opinions from the flesh, there will be lots of opinions, but when we get our opinion from God, they will be consistent and congruent, not opposing opinions.

The wisdom of God is consistent. It’s this wisdom that God uses to build, and it’s what works. Wisdom is the principal thing because without wisdom, we cannot know how to do anything.

Wisdom already exists. There’s always a wisdom in every situation. Wisdom is both apostolic and prophetic. Here, rather than moving with the trends, we are rather to ask

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God. Wisdom is a spirit, before it's a principle. It's the spirit of wisdom that imparts to us the principles of wisdom. Wisdom is a manifestation of the Spirit of God. Paul prayed that the church in Ephesus would receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God.

One of our major prayer points is for wisdom. Prayer is a way to receive. Prayer is an expression of faith. Prayer is a practical expression of faith.

James said, **“let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him”**, showing us that what keeps us from receiving is when we don't believe and know who God is. What gives strength to our prayers is the true knowledge of God, or faith in the abundant grace of God, and the faithfulness of God. We must be of this one mind. We must not build theology around lack of faith, and unanswered prayers, rather, we are to simply believe the Lord's generous character and faithfulness. This is what Satan will attack the most in our minds, accusing God.

Now, once we ask for wisdom, in prayer, we are then to obey that wisdom, and practice that wisdom, to see the desired results.

HOW TO SEE RESULTS is tied to HOW TO RECEIVE WISDOM. We have to act according to the light from heaven.

Being someone in faith, is a disposition of person, it's a kind of person, it's an attitude to life, it's a state to be. When we are in this state, all things are possible, because we have positioned ourselves to receive from God.

We have to know that we are loved by God, and God is eager to bless us. It's the knowledge of this that makes us ask Him. Sometimes, rather than praying about something without believing, let's first take some moments to believe and remind ourselves of the disposition of God, and then, we can ask, and expect that it will be done, and it will be done.

Essentially, this is how to study the Bible because the wisdom of God is captured as the Word of God. We ask the Lord for understanding of His wisdom, and after we ask in prayer, this asking must be done in faith.

What does that mean? It mean we must ask with the intention, disposition and preparation to do whatever the Lord says. This is what it means here to ask in faith. This is what the HolySpirit has shown me. James said **“But let him ask *in faith*, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”** James 1:6. It's not easy for a boat to move on a waving sea, likewise, it's not easy for the Lord to move and walk in and on a man who is like the wave of the sea. The Lord loves it when we are a stable

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ground, when we are ‘resurrection’, so that He, who is life can walk on and through us. **“For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”** James 1:7-8, meaning there’s a requirement to be met, before we will be confident that we will receive wisdom from the Lord. That condition is having one mind. Essentially, intending to go all the way with God, planning to walk by His wisdom alone, planning to execute all that God commands.

That’s the practicality of having a heart for God. It’s a heart of submission that intends to obey. This is faith. It’s from this place of repentance and faith that we pray, and our prayers are effective.

So then, receiving wisdom from God is dependent on at least three (3) things. (a) knowing that God is gracious, generous and faithful, (b) not assuming that because He is generous He will just give us everything without asking. He will give us some without asking verbally because we asked in spirit, he will give us some because of his love, yet, there are many things we wouldn’t receive until we ask. This is simply to show that we value that thing. It’s this valuing, desire, estimation, and hunger for God, as expressed through words, that helps us receive practical ways to navigate here on earth. Bible studying is part of asking the Lord for wisdom. It’s part of

seeking God for the wisdom to do His Will. Bible study is part of prayer. It's listening (c) We have to intend to do the things He says. We have to decide this ahead of time. We cannot afford to be double-minded. If we are, we wouldn't be able to see some of the truths. **John 7:17** and **Romans 12:2** teach us this. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. And if a man thinks in a duplicitous way, considering two opinions, being conscious of two things, that's how that man will live. This is why wrong doctrine and wrong believing will always lead to wrong behavior and wrong practice. The wisdom of God is one. The wisdom of God is the consistent spirit, or principle, in all the convictions we hold about everything else or about every situation.

(4) HOW TO BE HEAVENLY ON EARTH. HOW TO BE CONSISTENT

Addressing cancel culture in a Hedonistic and post modern world.

Generally, in this present and post modern world, there are a lot of opinions, and this largely makes many people's feelings unstable and causes a lot of fluctuations. Because of this, it's a pleasure driven, pleasure seeking culture. The mark of this is inconsistency with relationships, and with assignments. Lack of heavenly solidity, that's why Jesus taught us to pray, as it is in heaven, so let it be in earth. Things are settled in heaven.

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The Word is settled in heaven. It should also be settled here.

Being too earthly, and too trendy, we wouldn't be consistent. We wouldn't be mature, and gain stature in the fullness of Christ. It takes experience and consistency to be in the stature of Christ. There's a way to be consistent practically. James tells us.

“Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.”

James 1:9-11

The speakings of our mouth go a long way in determining our consistency. The boastings of our lips. The things we are most excited to speak about. It's also James who said the man who doesn't offend in what he says, the same is a perfect man. Ability to bridle our tongues goes along way.

To bridle the tongue doesn't mean not speaking at all, but it means not speaking unrighteousness at all. We are to always speak in righteousness. We are first to view things from God's nature, before viewing from culture.

Another way we develop consistency is not only by

prophetically declaring what God has said in heaven and in His eternal judgements, consistently, but also see God beyond whatever we are going through. If we are being brought high, we must see God beyond that, and if we are being brought low, we must also see God beyond that. When we do not idolize success or a specific condition of human experience, then, we will be more steady, more heavenly, more virtuous, more like God.

James said “**because like a flower of the grass he will pass away**”, meaning the reason we must sustain this consciousness is that we wouldn’t live in this present condition forever. In Christ, there’s a consistent economy, there are no ups and downs, no becoming rich, or being humiliated, so that our goal is neither being rich nor being poor, our goal is simply following God, our goal is Christ.

God, is like the Sun, He is constant. We are the ones revolving around the Sun, and because of that, we have seasons. There’s day and night, but in God, day and night makes no difference. Light and darkness makes no difference because He sits at a higher place. He is sovereign. He is the creator. We remember that we are not him. This is what it means by not putting confidence in the flesh. This is one major mark of spiritual maturity. We glory in Christ and put no confidence in the flesh. This is the man that walks and is not weary. This

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man is not in a haste because of human seasons or shifting seasons of men, but he is constantly moving with God. The pressures of man do not affect such a person's heart and life.

This fluctuation of emotions and decisions is really affecting our world today. There are all kinds of migration that are not warranted, and not sustainable. They end up being efforts in futility. This is what we find a lot in the world, lusts of the eyes, lusts of the flesh, and the pride of natural life. These are what we see as beautiful and glorious to the eyes, what we see as sweet to our senses, and what will give us a sense of self importance. All these we have to abandon at the feet of Jesus, and follow Him out into God. It doesn't matter how we perceive things in the natural, through the pride of life, or how we perceive things emotionally, which is the lust of the flesh, or how we perceive things physically, which is the lust of the eyes, what matters is Christ. The substance is Christ.

“for the sun did rise with the burning heat, and did wither the grass, and the flower of it fell, and the grace of its appearance did perish, so also the rich in his way shall fade away!” James 1:11 YLT,

When God arises in His sovereign manifestation, the light and heat that comes from Him, the revelation and power, will make everything else before then look inconsequential, so

then, all the glories of riches and the pursuit of riches seen in the heart and mind of the one pursuing riches will also fade, whenever God arises and shines.

Through different generations, the light and power of God shines, and the knowledge and ability of the past generation fades, such that only those who maintained the glory of God Himself, through His wisdom and power stayed relevant and consistent. Such is the way of God.

God is faithful, and He has called us into this eternal faithfulness. This is righteousness.

So then, we are not to put the pursuits of daily needs, and daily possessions, beyond the pursuit of God. When we seek first the kingdom, it's not so that all other things will be added, it's so that we can be alive and vital before God, and God can be free to be Himself around us. It's while all these is happening that "other things" like our needs will be sorted. It's not BECAUSE of needs that we seek Him, it's in spite of needs, and because of Him. Yet, he who didn't seek much reward, but sought love, often gets the most rewards. God cannot be mocked. He sees all and knows all. He will give to everyone according to the heart (*Jeremiah 17:10*).

(5) HOW TO BE PROMOTED

Addressing hope in a world loosing hope

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has *stood* the test he will receive *the crown of life*, which *God has promised* to those who love him” James 1:12

The way we, who love God, go through trial determines how we would be promoted. Many do not know this. That’s why we often do not count it all joy when we go through trial. Notice, the trial is not the blessing, it’s only the platform for receiving the blessing. Because of the end goal of the trial, we can regard and reckon the trial a blessing, because of what God uses it to do. God is the one who makes promises to us who love him. As we relate with God, we see natures and cultures in Him that we begin to desire and that He is willing to share with us. Yet, we would have to be trained in steadiness.

What does this mean? God can give us a promise on day one, and His intention is that we believe that promise that day, and accept it to be true. This is steadfastness. It’s the practice of faith and obedience.

Now, it’s remaining in this position and disposition of faith and obedience that’s the next issue now. It’s the abiding that’s the issue. It’s the abiding that determines fruitfulness (*John 15*).

It's how we remain, either steadfast or not, that determines if we will receive the crown of life (*1 Corinthians 9:27*), and how we will receive the crown of life (*2 Peter 1:11*).

So then, what does it look like to “abide”, to “remain steadfast” under trial?

Now, there are many promises for those in Christ and those who engage Christ. These things that are promises today, are realities in God and in Christ already.

Remaining steadfast then, is accepting the promise to be the fact, and the only fact, irrespective all the present oppositions, from the flesh, from sin, from Satan and demons, and from the world. So then, abiding is living the covenant life. There's no way to abide if we do not go through the covenant. It's the covenant that God designed to assure us of His promises (*Hebrews 6:15-20*). The new covenant is the greatest way any man can abide in God. It's through the finished works of Jesus on the cross, the indwelling Holy Spirit who leads and the revelation of God's Word.

Without the consciousness of the new covenant through mediation on the Word and praying in the Spirit, we will not be able to remain steadfast under trial. We would take that “trial” to be the truth because we feel it so much, have

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been thinking it so much, and have been interacting with it so much. We can be so neck deep in trial that we begin to see the trial as what really exists, meanwhile, the trial is only a theatre of transformation. The trial is only a place that God Himself comes to show us how to have confidence in Him and to loose confidence in the flesh. This is what suffering, which is remaining steadfast under trial does.

It's in the midst of trial that we realize what our priorities really are. This helps us to focus, and know how to rightly appropriate value. Trial brings great spiritual order to our lives, and once this experiential spiritual order is there, we are built and skilled in the Word of righteousness (*Hebrews 5:13*). This means we are skilled in righteousness and the practice of righteousness. The Word is for daily practice (*Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4*). When this divine order enters our hearts and minds, we are consecrated to righteousness through the covenant, and so, we are ready to legislate the command of God.

When we receive the “crown of life”, we are receiving a throne of life, a kingdom of life, an administration of life, an authority of life, a power of life, an ability to experience eternal life at a particular level and the right to bring others into deeper experiences of eternal life. This is what it is to be anointed a minister, or promoted in the realm of the spirit, or in the realms of God. This is what it means to increase in ranking.

This is what it means to shift in destiny. This is what it means to progress. This is what it means to transform. This is how we come into the experience of the promises of God. We are portals of expression of the kingdom of heaven on the earth. We are ambassadors.

Essentially, all these are for those who love God. Those who have received God's love, and love Him back. "Remaining steadfast" simply means continuing to love God. Abiding in God simply means continuing to love Him. When we continue to love God through thick and thin, by constantly believing His work and word concerning us, then, at different points, we would receive measures of the crown of life. This is how we receive dominion. Dominion and authority is of Christ, and we receive from Him through proper stewardship.

(6) HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

Addressing corruption in today's world

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” James 1:13-15,

James makes a distinction between trials and temptation for us. The nature of God is the difference between these two. God works in the midst of trial, to help us focus, prioritize, gain confidence in Him, and loose confidence in the flesh, but God doesn't work in and through temptations.

When God works in trials, He intends for us to get better, but when Satan incites temptations, it's his intention for us to loose our balance in God and kingdom.

The first thing is our disposition towards temptations. When they come, we must first ask, who are they coming from? James tells us here that we must first know that temptations don't come from God. God is good, and there's no evil in Him. Not everyone believes this. God is light, and there's no darkness in Him. God is love, and there's no hate in Him. Even

when He judges evil, it's a demonstration of His goodness and righteousness. He doesn't delight in the death of the wicked.

We have to know this of God. We have to understand God's personal being, and God's administration of kingdom in a fallen world. God is beyond the strivings of men, and the satanic drama. **"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one"** James 1:13. The eternal dimension of God is simple and pure. There's no shadow in there. All the attributes of God fit perfectly into each other eternally. God is wholly good, and wholly love. He is the Father of lights. All is clear and transparent before Him. It's the darkness that has corrupted our world that doesn't allow us see Him clearly. This is the heart of God we need to see. This is the love of God we need to see. This is what frees us and helps us overcome temptations the most. It takes away fear, doubt, worry and anxiety.

"Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" James 1:16-17, one of the major deceptions of Satan is telling us that God is deeply affected by what's going on in the world in such a way that He himself will change to do evil because of the evil being done in the world. God is

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life, and the Father of lights, meaning, there are movements of light in Him, and with Him. Light moves to light with God. These lights are to express different dimensions of His love. It's these lights that manifest as good gifts, and perfect gifts. What's the difference?

When we read the HCSB and the YLT, we read..

“Don't be deceived, my dearly loved brothers. Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning” James 1:16-17 HCSB,

“Be not led astray, my brethren beloved; every good giving, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, with whom is no variation, or shadow of turning;” James 1:16-17 YLT,

While one says *“every generous act and every perfect gift”*, the other says *“every good giving and every perfect gift”*, showing us that two things are being described of God. Firstly, how He gives and secondly, what He gives.

There are some people that give us good things but they do it in not so good ways. We are sometimes given gifts and then shamed afterwards. Other times, we are given gifts and then controlled afterwards. Yet, other times, we are praised, and

then, deceived. The Holy Spirit is careful to show us something about God here. That God is not like other men we are used to that do “good giving” today and tomorrow do “bad giving”. God is not generous today and stingy tomorrow. God is not gracious today and then, deliberately wicked tomorrow. This is not God. He is not bipolar. He doesn’t have two sides. There’s no shadow that is in Him due to changing sides. Imagine someone who has two sides, when they are changing from this side to that side, there’s a shadow that develops. It leaves a sour taste with having a relationship with someone that is up today and down tomorrow. For many people, this is their idea of intimacy. This is poor. Intimacy is a relationship of life and vitality always. It’s eternal life. It’s this knowledge that helps us in times when it feels down.

When we learn the nature of God, how we give is affected and then, what we also give is affected. Essentially, being like God is giving. God is a giver. Then, how He gives us generously. This is why we need power. And what He gives is perfect gifts. This is why we need wisdom. Wisdom helps us to know what to give per time. By wisdom, we know what’s appropriate.

These gifts that God gives, are an extension of Himself. They are “coming” from the Father of lights. This means that He is present.

When we know this, first, and say this, being conscious of this

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within and outside, we cripple temptations. We are already more than conquerors through Him that loved us (*Romans 8:37*). Then, we use this “more than conquerors” experience, to conquer the temptations that come daily, because though our position is high, being more than conquerors, Satan doesn’t abide lawfully, he would still come to fight and try. This is what He did to Jesus, and the reason God allows this is for the sake of His praise, our joy and our further confidence in Him through practicing His wisdom and power.

Being more than conquerors doesn’t mean we wouldn’t fight, it just means that we would fight with victory. We do not fight for eternal victory, we fight with eternal victory. We receive eternal victory, and then, we use this eternal victory, fighting with it for earthly victory. It’s because we are more than conquerors, in God, beyond the realm of conflict, that we manifest His dimension in the realms of conflict. This is God’s strategy. God Himself is God’s highest strategy.

James shows us that salvation is the one of the highest expression of God’s generous giving and God’s perfect gift. **“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures”** James 1:18, this perfect gift of salvation, and the perfect giving of salvation, has many other gifts within the gift that help us understand the gift of salvation. Justification is a gift, a work of Jesus on

the cross. Regeneration, which is the vital side of justification is a gift, a living work of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is a living work of the Holy Spirit. Even, consecration, is a gift of God to us and, also our gifted response to Him. Glorification is also a gift, it's what happens in His manifest presence. Gifts are a huge expression of love. God willingly gifted us with salvation, so that we are "governors" and "firstfruits" of His creatures.

Satan and demons are part of His creatures. Created things are part of His creatures. So then, when Satan and demons bring suggestions of temptations to lure us, we have to know that these are beneath us. We live in a world of no strivings. That's the first thing to note about overcoming temptations, we have to know that God is above temptations and in Him, we too are above temptations. The first way to overcome temptations is to not be trying hard to overcome temptations but to simply be lost in God.

The second thing is this. We must know where temptations come from. They are satanic luring and seductions that come into our minds. This is how Satan beguiled Eve, and Paul tells us to not be naive but be aware of this (*2 Corinthians 11:3, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11*).

“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

James 1:14-15,

There’s also an inordinate desire for deeper “revelation” or deeper “spiritual experience”, or deeper worldly experience, which are lusts, that drives those that are not content. This inordinate desire is the corruption of desire in the old man. There’s a difference between the desiring of the new man and the desiring of the old man. There’s a kind of desperation in the old man that’s due to spiritual ignorance and spiritual darkness, but the desire in the new man is due to spiritual light. So then, there’s worldly hunger and godly hunger. What we hunger for, is usually what tells us if it’s godly or worldly.

Satan lures through thoughts. Thoughts come in through our eye gates and ear gates. But we are in the world, and there will be temptations coming, just as they came to Jesus. Yet, we don’t have to go sit in the seat of scoffers and in the house of temptations, that’s not wise. We cannot expect to set ourselves on fire and not be burnt. Yet, there’s the other side of temptations. It’s our desires.

Conception only happens when Satan’s suggestions and our desires match together. When this happens, there’s

conception. What this means is that there's already iniquity in our hearts. Our hearts are already corrupted. Our processing is already biased. When this happens, it's only waiting for an opportunity to manifest. The sin is already in the heart. It just wants to be born. Giving birth is coming of something from within, outwards. This is why we need the washing of the word, and prayer, and Godly communication, without corrupted desires. When desires are corrupted, then, when the opportunity provides itself, sin is done. Now, there's different expression of sin, there's transgression that often tells us what's in our minds and how our minds are yet to be fully aligned, and then, there's iniquity that often shows how deep into the heart this thing is. How we've feasted with the spirit of the world, and how corrupted our desires are.

This is why desires like ambition, success, anointing, fulfillment, happiness, should be rightly interpreted in God, and in Christ, if not, they will drive us to harboring iniquity within our hearts for long, or manifesting this as many transgressions. This is what it means to be under bondage, and not free. This is precisely what the Holy Spirit came to free us from. This is what makes us complicated and not simple. This is what dilutes the pure stream that can be flowing from us.

All these reasons are why we must study deeply the Word of God as we pray, so that there's deep inward work of

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transformation. This is the major Christian walk. It's the renewing of the mind. It's the changing of the attitude of our souls. It's the spirit of our minds being renewed.

What cures our inordinate desires are the ordained desires, which is God's love for us, God's love in us and God's honor in us. When we love the Lord and fear Him, it helps our hearts.

(7) HOW TO THINK RIGHT

Addressing wrong judgement in a generation

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:19-21

We are brought forth, born into grace through the womb of truth. This womb is the word of truth, the gospel. This is the citadel of inward transformation. We have to know that it's the word of truth that God uses to bring us forth and to sanctify us.

Without going through this womb, we wouldn't grow better in judgement and spiritual discernment as we should. It's by

spiritual discernment that we receive.

When we know this, and are conscious of this. We will be quick to listen. This is something young people must learn to do. Quickness in listening. Not only hearing but listening. This is an ability to observe. It's this calm observation that begins to help us to know God personally and deeply. It's by this too that we begin to know people, times and situations. The person that listens, is listening to know the pressure points, and this person is more interested in acting than just repeating what was said. It's listening that leads to doing (*James 1:22-25*). So then, how we think, determines how we act. If we are unable to listen to instructions well, then, our execution will be poor. The key to obedience is listening intently. Listening to know when, how and where to engage.

It's also listening that keeps us from getting angry and stirring wrong emotions. Often, when we don't listen, not only to what is being said, but also to what is not being said, we would start to get angry. We would flee to insecurities. Many people express anger differently. Some express rage and others express coldness. It's all anger.

What then is anger? It's the opposite of the grace of God. Whenever we lose sweetness and graciousness, we are already angry. We are already in a place of tension, and lack

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of good spirit of love, power and sound mind.

James said **“for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God”** James 1:20, what produces the righteousness of God for man? It’s the grace of God. God knows that it’s the manifestation of love that produces true righteousness, not the increment of laws. The increment of laws only leads to more and more anxiety and fear and disguise and falsehood. It means to more fake-ness and cold formalism.

Anger then, is a kind of thinking. It’s prideful and selfish thinking. Just like humility is calm and selfless thinking, anger is selfish thinking. This is why many people are hurt, because for as long as we are pre-occupied with ourselves, continuously thinking of our needs, we would keep getting more and more hurt. This is why people get more hurt by the past as they get more and more selfish. As they get more and more selfishly ambitious, there’s more and more hurt for things that happened in the past, because they will analyze the situation and blame the present condition on what others did in the past. This is the rat-race that Satan likes to put many in. This is not the way.

This is the thinking that births a lot of filthy talk, and rampant rumors come from. It’s these filthy talk and rampant rumors