

# James 1

- **1** James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.
- **2** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- **5** But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6** But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, **8** *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- <sup>9</sup> But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; <sup>10</sup> and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.
- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. <sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. <sup>17</sup> Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. <sup>18</sup> In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

- <sup>19</sup> *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.
- <sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.



# STEP BACK

James 1

# STEP BACK James 1

- What is the problem?
- What tools do I have?
- Am I complacent?



# STEP BACK: What is the problem?

- Sometimes things aren't going right. It's easy to point fingers and want to blame people.
- Story about uveitis patient
  - Mom and I came up with a treatment plan
  - Mom tells me that surely, I forgot to use the drops, or that I probably missed
  - - Mom is very patient with me -
- Balaam



# Numbers 22

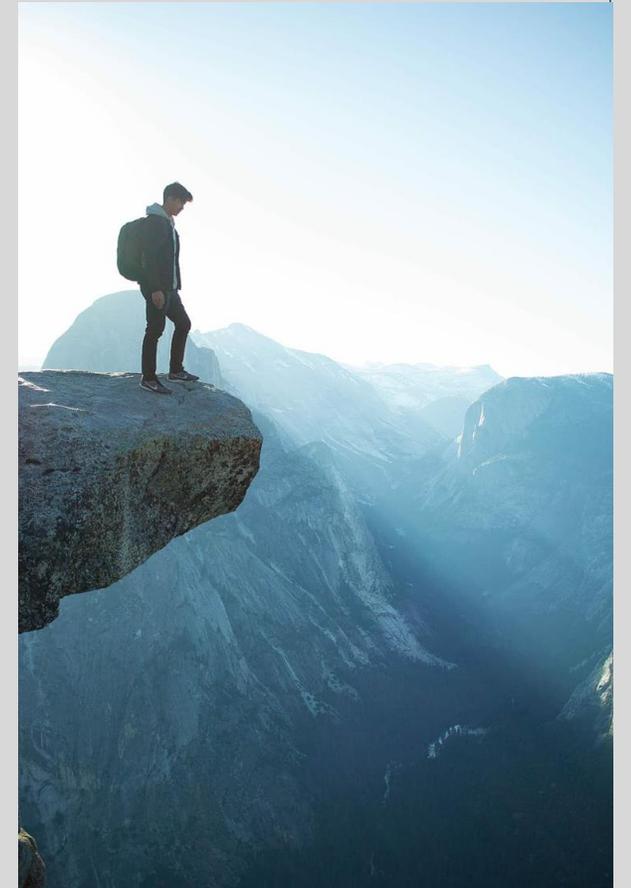
- <sup>22</sup> But God was angry because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey and his two servants were with him. <sup>23</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off from the way and went into the field; but Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back into the way. <sup>24</sup> Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path of the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side. <sup>25</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed herself to the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall, so he struck her again. <sup>26</sup> The angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn to the right hand or the left. <sup>27</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick. <sup>28</sup> And the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" <sup>29</sup> Then Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a mockery of me! If there had been a sword in my hand, I would have killed you by now." <sup>30</sup> The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I ever been accustomed to do so to you?" And he said, "No."

# Numbers 22

- <sup>31</sup> Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground. <sup>32</sup> The angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me. <sup>33</sup> But the donkey saw me and turned aside from me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, I would surely have killed you just now, and let her live.” <sup>34</sup> Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the way against me. Now then, if it is displeasing to you, I will turn back.” <sup>35</sup> But the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but you shall speak only the word which I tell you.” So Balaam went along with the leaders of Balak.
- Balaam failed to remove himself from the situation and realize what the problem was

# STEP BACK: What is the problem?

- Back to James 1
- Do I Lack wisdom? – Verse 5
  - Do I truly understand what the bible has to say about my issue
- Do I doubt? – Verse 6
  - Am I confident that God and my fellow Christians have
- Do I bounce around, and have inconsistent convictions? – Verse 7
  - Do I ever move the line of my standards depending on a situation?



# STEP BACK: What tools do I have?

- There may be factors that annoy us
- Maybe they are not causing us trouble, but instead are helping us
- We went to visit the Hoover dam a few years ago.
  - Two gentlemen who oversaw the project had very different prerogatives
  - One was all about deadlines; the other was about accuracy and safety
  - Even though their opinions were very much opposed, they were good friends and worked well together. The project was done in around five years and is today one of the most impressive engineering feats in the world.
- Paul and Barnabas

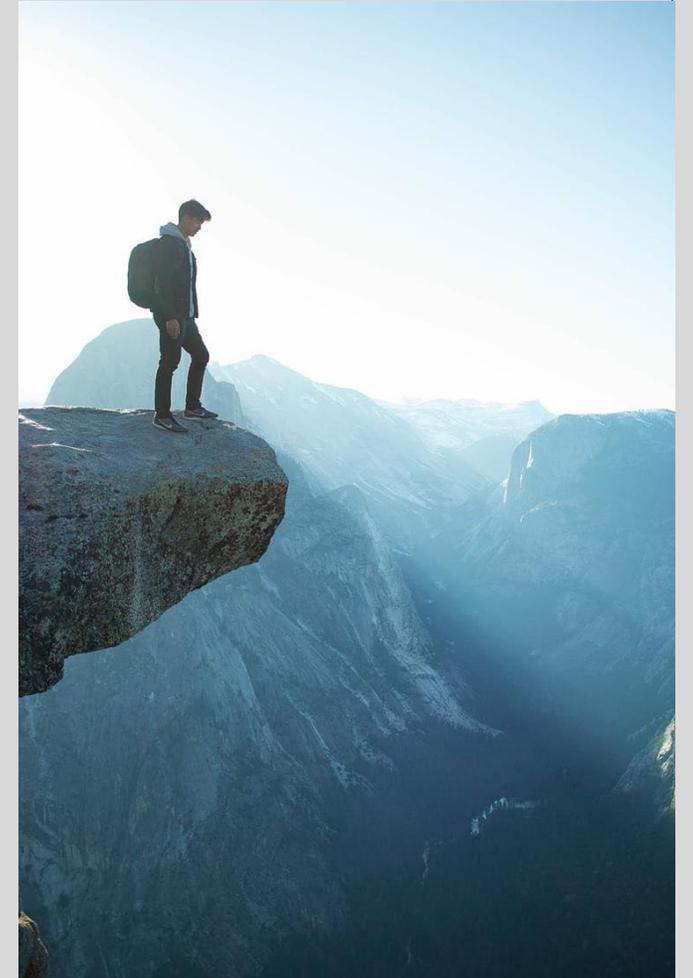


# Acts 15

- <sup>36</sup> After some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are.” <sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. <sup>38</sup> But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup> And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. <sup>40</sup> But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

# STEP BACK: What tools do I have?

- Back to James 1
- Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial - he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him. Verse 12
- Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. Verse 17
- In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. Verse 18



# STEP BACK: Am I complacent?

- How fast do we get tired?
  - Beginning of lock down, - myself included- everyone's spirits were on fire
  - Zoom
  - Bible readings
  - Phone calls
- Cedar point
  - Social Distancing and Mask Requirements
  - Got tired by 6:00
- Children of Israel

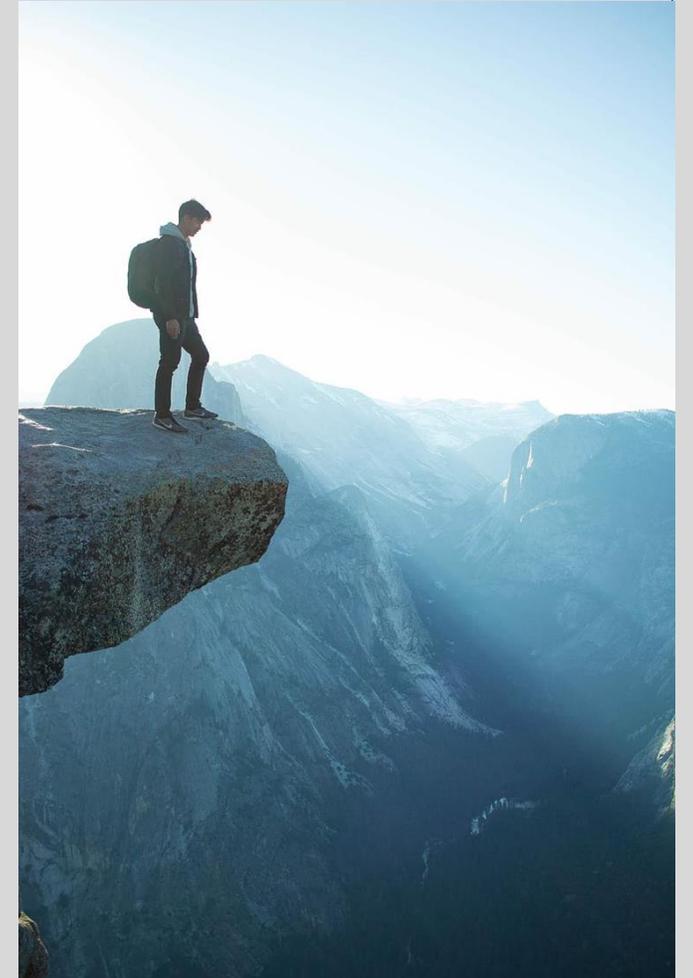


# Numbers 14

- **14** Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. <sup>2</sup> All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup> Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” <sup>4</sup> So they said to one another, “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”

# STEP BACK: Am I complacent?

- Back to James 1
- <sup>26</sup>If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.





Step back  
before it's too  
late

Jake story

# Matt 25

- **25** “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

