

...CKING ANYTHING. IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FAILING, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. BUT WHEN YOU ASK, YOU MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT, BECAUSE THE ONE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE THE WIND, BLOWN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND. BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO PERSEVERES UNDER TRIAL BECAUSE, HAVING ENDURED, THAT PERSON WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE THAT THE LORD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. WHEN TEMPTED, YOU SHOULD SAY, "GOD IS TEMPTING ME," FOR GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL, NOR DOES HE TEMPT ANYONE; BUT EACH OF US IS TEMPTED WHEN THEY ARE DRAGGED AWAY BY THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRE AND ENTICED. THEN, AFTER DESIRE HAS CONCEIVED, IT GIVES BIRTH TO SIN, AND SIN, WHEN IT IS FULL-GROWN, GIVES BIRTH TO DEATH. DON'T BE DECEIVED, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TO GIVE US BIRTH THROUGH THE WORD OF TRUTH, THAT WE MIGHT BE A KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL HE CREATED. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TAKE NOTE OF THIS: EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY, BECAUSE HUMAN ANGER DOES NOT PRODUCE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOD DESIRES. THEREFORE, GET RID OF ALL MORAL FILTH AND ALL THAT IS SO PREVALENT AND HUMBLY ACCEPT THE WORD PLANTED IN YOU, WHICH CAN SAVE YOU. DO NOT MERELY HEAR THE WORD, AND SO DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS. ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO THE WORD BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT IT SAYS IS LIKE A MIRROR THAT LOOKS AT HIS FACE IN A MIRROR AND, AFTER LOOKING AT HIMSELF, GOES AWAY AND IMMEDIATELY FORGETS. HE LOOKS LIKE HE IS BEING BLESSED, BUT WHOEVER LOOKS INTENTLY INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, AND CONTINUES IN IT—NOT FORGIVING ANYTHING THEY HAVE HEARD, BUT DOING IT—THEY WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT THEY DO. RELIGION THAT GOD OUR FATHER ACCEPTS AS PURE AND WITHOUT FAULT IS THIS: TO LOOK AFTER ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS AND TO KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORLD. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BELIEVERS IN OUR GLORIOUS LORD JESUS CHRIST MUST NOT SHOW FAVORITISM. DO NOT SHOW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE MAN WEARING FINE CLOTHES AND SAY, "HERE'S A GOOD SEAT FOR YOU," BUT SAY TO THE POOR MAN, "AN, YOU STAND THERE" OR "SIT ON THE GROUND." DO NOT PARTY WITH EVIL THOUGHTS? LISTEN, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS: HAS NOT GOD CHOSEN THOSE WHO ARE POOR IN THE WORLD TO BE RICH IN FAITH AND TO INHERIT THE KINGDOM HE PROMISED THOSE WHO LOVE HIM? BUT YOU HAVE DISHONORED GOD. IS IT NOT THE RICH WHO ARE EXPLOITING YOU? ARE THEY NOT THE ONES WHO ARE DRAGGING YOU INTO COURT? ARE THEY NOT THE ONES WHO ARE BLASPHEMING THE NOBLE NAME OF HIM TO WHOM YOU BELONG? IF YOU REALLY KEEP THE ROYAL LAW OF LOVE, YOU WILL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. YOU ARE DOING RIGHT, BUT IF YOU SHOW FAVORITISM, YOU SIN AND ARE CONDEMNED BY THE LAW AS LAWBREAKERS. FOR WHOEVER KEEPS THE WHOLE LAW AND YET STUMBLES AT JUST ONE POINT IS GUILTY OF ALL OF IT. FOR HE WHO SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," ALSO SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER." IF YOU COMMIT ADULTERY BUT DO COMMIT MURDER, YOU HAVE BECOME A LAWBREAKER. SPEAK AND ACT AS THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, BECAUSE JUDGMENT WITHOUT MERCY WILL BE SHOWN TO ANYONE WHO HAS NO MERCY. MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT. WHAT GOOD IS IT, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF SOMEONE CLAIMS TO HAVE FAITH BUT DOES NOT DO IT? CAN SUCH FAITH SAVE THEM? SUPPOSE A BROTHER OR A SISTER IS WITHOUT CLOTHES AND DAILY FOOD. IF ONE OF THEM SAYS, "KEEP YOUR PEACE, KEEP WARM AND WELL FED," BUT DOES NOTHING ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS, WHAT GOOD IS IT?

**NOT JUST SUGGESTIONS - JAMES**

**Just let God be in charge of your plans**

James 1:13-16

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

## **1. God's plans for us are good**

Jeremiah 29:11-13

<sup>1</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

## **2. Don't presume that your plans are His plans**

## **3. Don't be passive about God's plans**

## **4. Let God be in charge of your plans by faith**

A. Trust in God's character

B. Trust in God's promises

C. Trust in God's commands