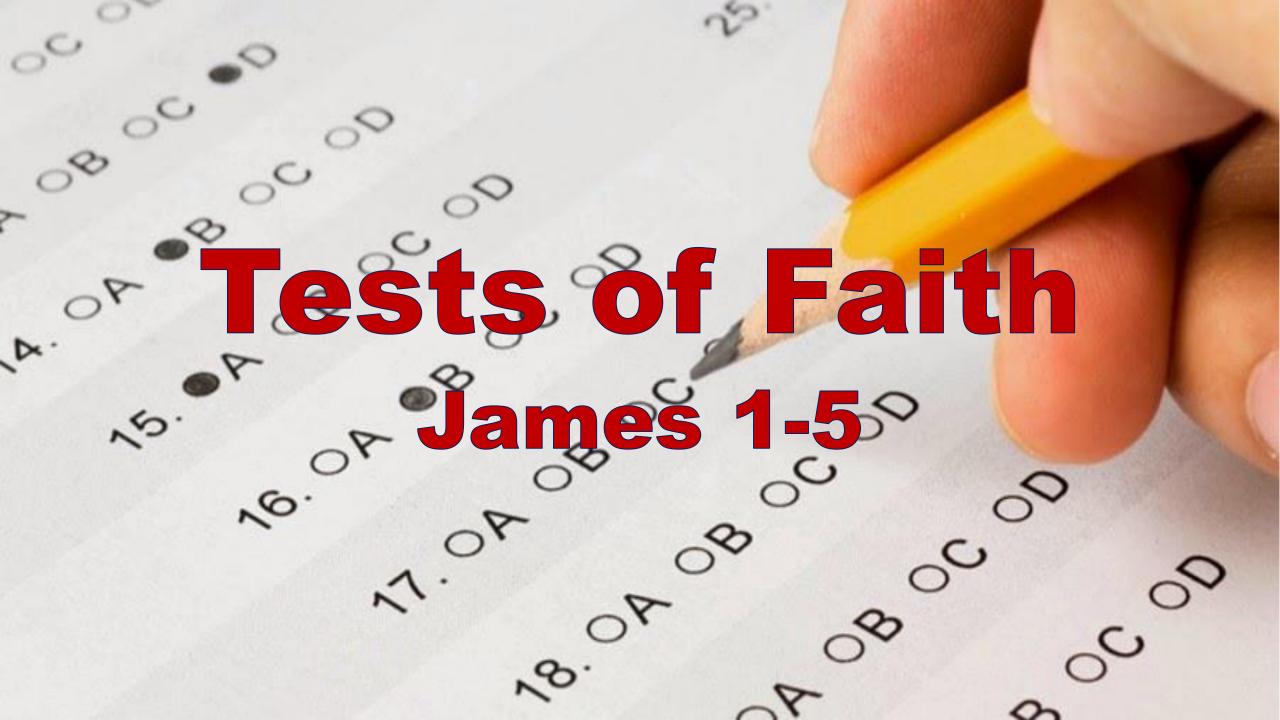


- ·James gives an overview of his epistle in James 1:2-4.
- He makes reference to "trials of various kinds" and "the testing of your faith."
- The letter then is a text book about what tests we will face to prove our faith.

- THE TEST OF SMARTNESS (Wisdom)
 - ·James 1:5-11
 - · It comes from God.
 - · Recognize our lowly state.
- THE TEST OF STEADFASTNESS
 - ·James 1:12-18
 - · Under persecutions.
 - · About our passions.
 - · For our purpose.

- ·THE TEST OF SUBMISSION
 - ·James 1:19-27
 - · To the counsel of God through his word.
 - To God's definition of religious.
 - The word "religion" in verses 26 and 27 means, "ceremonial observances."
 - In other words this text is dealing with hypocrites.



•THE TEST OF IMPARTIALITY

- · James 2:1-13
- · It is not Christian behavior to treat some people well and mistreat others.
- · It is wrong for us to develop improper evaluations of people due to appearance.
- · James says that this is not loving your neighbor as yourself and goes on to discuss the magnitude of this sin.

- ·THE TEST OF COMPASSION
 - · James 2:14-17
 - Difference between empathy and compassion.
 - Empathy- The ability to understand of be sensitive to the feelings and experiences of others. (James 2:15)
 - Compassion sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.
 - · Jesus was moved with compassion.
 - · Matt. 14:14- 5000 people.
 - · Mark 1:41- Leper.

·THE TEST OF ACTION/OBEDIENCE

- ·James 2:18-26
- · Faith is made complete through action/works.
- We hear many people say that "faith alone" saves you.
- James 2:24 is the only text in the Bible that puts these two words side by side. What does it say? "...a person is justified by works and NOT by 'faith alone."
- A comparison is made to physical death and spiritual death.

