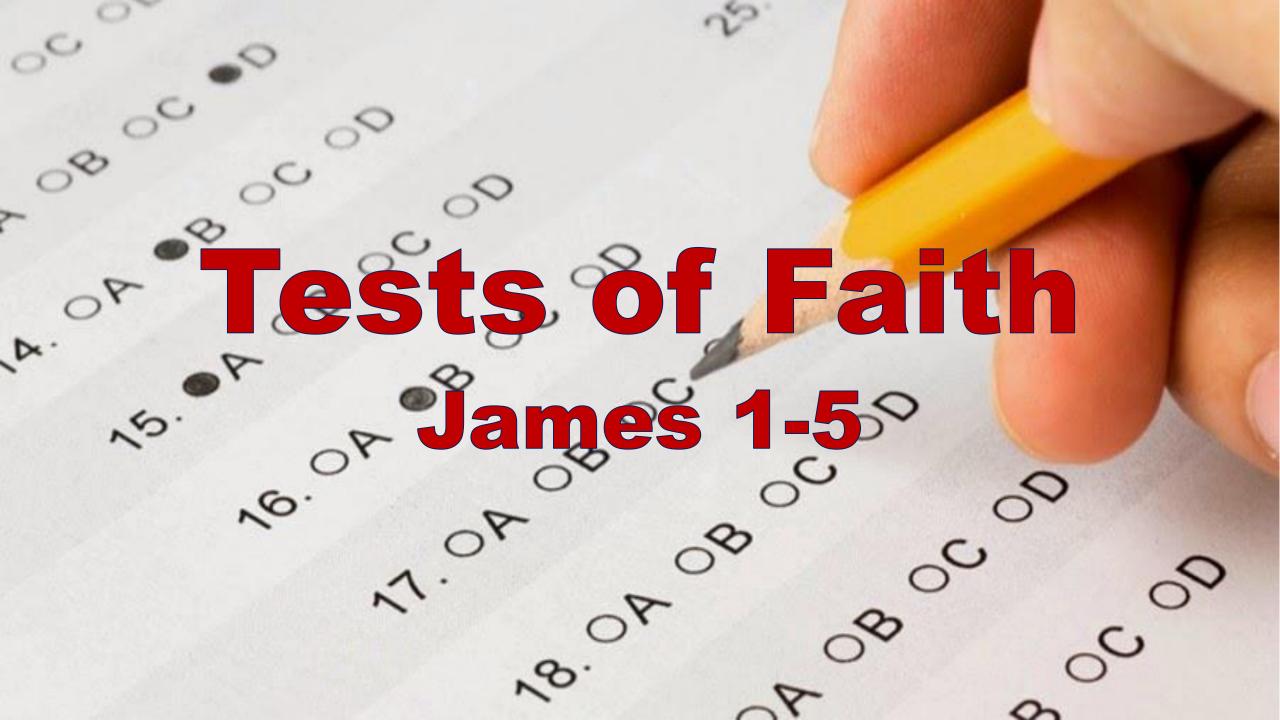


- •James gives an overview of his epistle in James 1:2-4.
- •He makes reference to "trials of various kinds" and "the testing of your faith."

•The letter then is a text book about what tests we will face to prove our faith.

#### **Tests of 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.

#### **Tests of Faith •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.



### **Tests of Faith** •**THE TEST OF IMPARTIALITY** • James 2:1-13

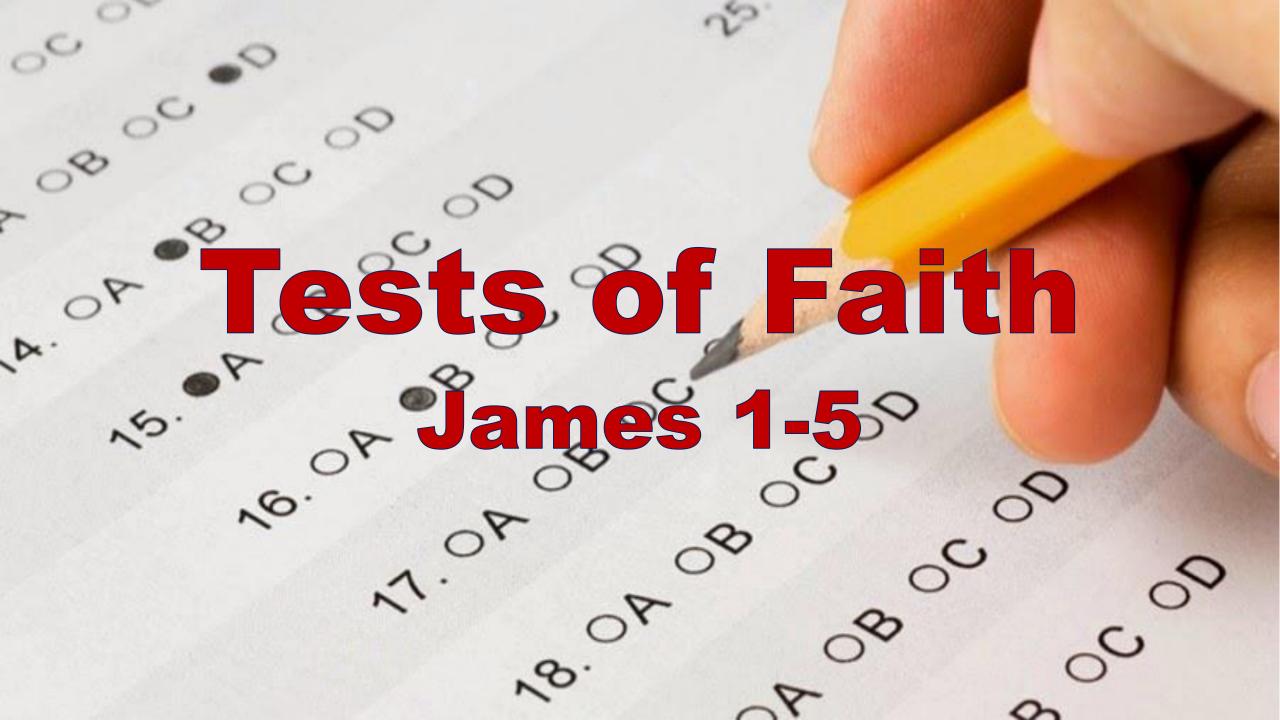
- It is not Christian behavior to treat some people well and mistreat others.
- It is wrong for us to develop improper evaluations of people due to appearance.
- James says that this is not loving your neighbor as yourself and goes on to discuss the magnitude of this sin.

### Tests of Faith • 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)
  - <u>Compassion</u>- sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to <u>alleviate</u> it.
- Jesus was moved with compassion.
  - Matt. 14:14- 5000 people.
  - Mark 1:41- Leper.

### **Tests of Faith** •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 <u>NOT</u> by 'faith alone."
- A comparison is made to physical death and spiritual death.



- **THE TEST OF THE TONGUE** 
  - James 3:1-12
  - Oh boy! Here we go.
  - The tongue is described as "a fire, a world of unrighteousness."
  - Two uses-
    - Blessing- Eph. 4:29; 5:4- Build up.
    - Cursing- Eph. 4:31- Tear down.

## Tests of Faith •THE TEST OF MEEKNESS

- James 3:13-18
- A full understanding of the concept of meekness requires a study in word association.
- The Greek word for meekness (prautes) is linked to mildness, gentleness, selfcontrol, and humility.
- It is a disposition that allows one to respond to any situation appropriately because of his/her relationship with God.

### **Tests of Faith** •THE TEST OF MEEKNESS

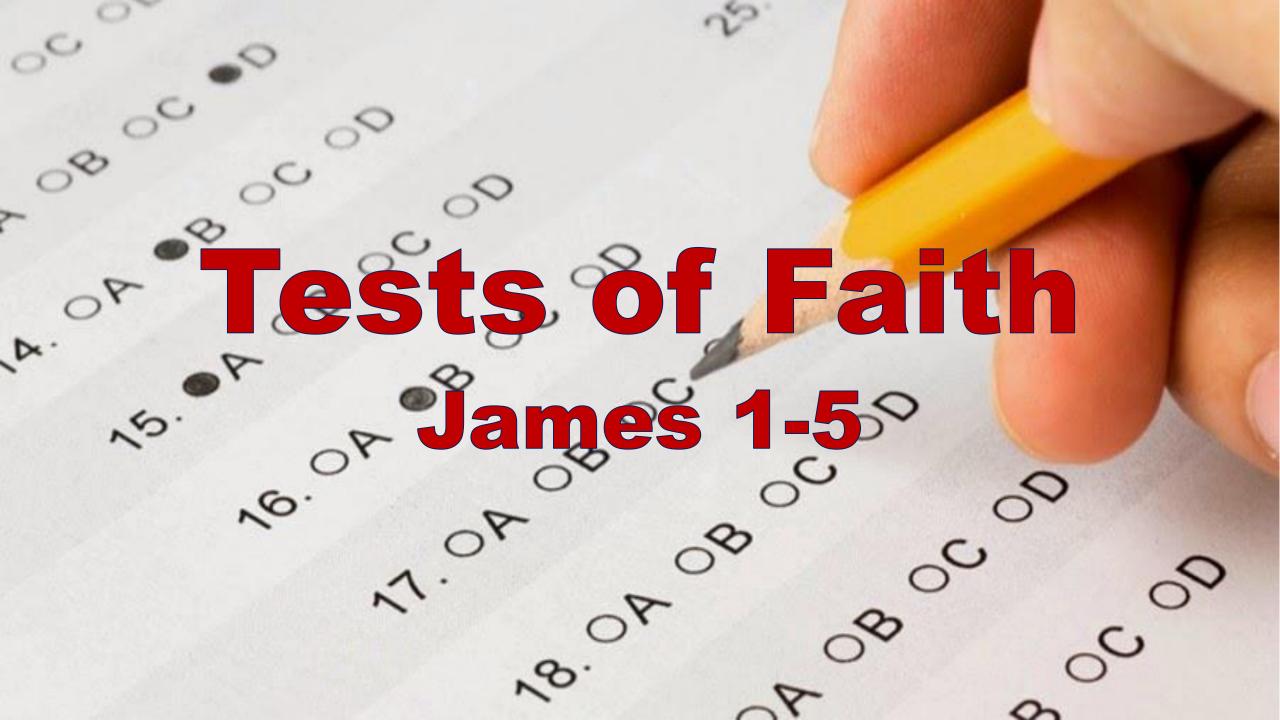
- Vine's Expos. Dict. describes it this way, "An inwrought grace of the soul."
- Matt. 5:5.
- It accepts the wisdom that is from above and puts it into practice.
- How many of us operate more in the realm of jealousy and selfish ambition?

## Tests of Faith • THE TEST OF WORLDLINESS

- James 4:1-5:6
  - Covetousness- 4:1-5. Also Col. 3:5 (idolatry).
  - Pride/Arrogance- 4:6-17.
    - Failure to turn to God.- vss. 6-10.
    - Assuming the role of God in judging.- vss. 11-12.
    - Presumption of control/self-sufficiencyvss. 13-17.
      - I've got time and money.

## Tests of Faith • THE TEST OF WORLDLINESS

- James 4-5:6
  - Wealth- 5:1-6
    - Fraud
      - Mistreat others to gain a dollar.
    - Luxury and self-indulgence
      - Fattened ourselves up for the slaughter like cattle.
      - We get so wound up in our possessions that we forget what is most important in life.



#### Tests of Faith • THE TEST OF PATIENCE • James 5:7-11

- Be patient until the coming of the Lord and you will receive the precious fruit.
- Remember the prophets (spoke in the name of the Lord)
  - They did not always see the fruit of their labor.
  - They did not always last until things got better.
    - They did not always get what they wanted.
    - They did not change their message to avoid controversy, accommodate unrighteousness, or escape mistreatment.

### Tests of Faith • THE TEST OF PATIENCE • James 5:7-11

- Remember Job
  - Had to endure the pain of Satan's joy.
    - Have you ever thought about how Satan must have enjoyed himself at the expense of Job.
    - Satan loves to inflict pain.
  - Experienced the worst with which life can hit you.
  - When it looked like there was no hope, there came renewal and blessings.

#### • THE TEST OF HONESTY

- James 5:12
- James quotes our Lord from Matthew 5:34-37
- An oath involved invoking God's name or substitute for it to guarantee the truth of one's statements.
- Jesus' disciples are to have character of such integrity that their words can be believed without an oath.
- Ephesians 4:25.

#### **•THE TEST OF PRAYER**

- James 5:13-18
- Believing in the power of prayer and making an exercise of it.
  - Prayer for the sick.
    - Probably related to miraculous gifts.
    - Although physical healing is not guaranteed, Christians should still pray for the sick.
  - Prayer for sin.
  - Prayer makes a difference.

#### **• THE TEST OF SOUL-SAVING**

- James 5:19-20
- We must be diligent to spot those who are wandering from the truth. Those not living according to the word of truth.
- How concerned am I about those who are lost?