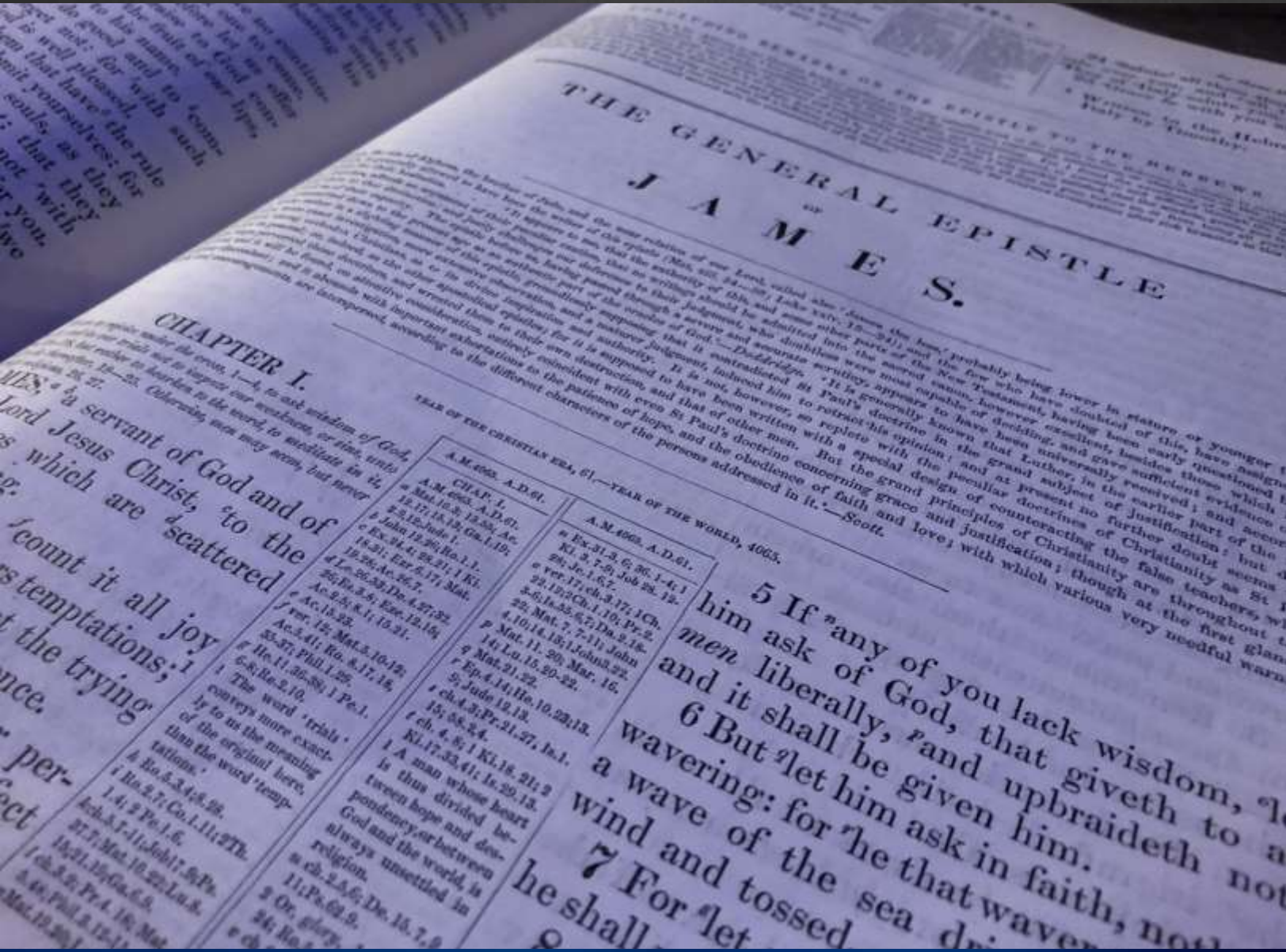


# The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



# Chapter 1

Session 2

# New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

**7 Churches**

**Pastoral**

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

**"Prison Epistles"**

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

Hebrew-Christian Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3 John

Jude

# James

- The half-brother of Jesus.
- Considered by the early church as a son of Mary and Joseph.
  - Jerome, Augustine, et al.
  - See also Matthew 12:46, 47; 13:55; Mark 3:31, 32; Luke 8:19, 20; 1 Cor 9:5.
- Unbeliever before the resurrection: John 7:5.
- The Lord specifically appeared to James (1 Cor 15:7) following which he became a believer & the head of the Church in Jerusalem
  - Acts 15 / Gal 2:9

# James

- He was married (1 Cor 9:5)
- When Peter was released from prison he instructed them to tell James (Acts 12:17)
- Paul reported to him upon arrival in Jerusalem
  - Gal 1:18 / Acts 21:17-26
- His name was used by the Judaizers saying they had 'come from James' (Gal 2:12).
  - Note that he had already disavowed having authorised them to use his name as an endorsement of their legal teachings (Acts 15:24)

# Jesus' Earthly Family

Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?

Matthew 13:55-56

- At least a family of 7 children
  - 4 brothers & 2 sisters
    - James always mentioned first indicating he was the eldest (after Jesus)

# Time of Writing?

- Written within 10 years of the Resurrection
- c.40 A.D

# Overview of the Epistle

- James shows the importance of
  - Conduct over Creed
  - Behaviour over Belief
  - Deed over Doctrine
- James' Epistle is intensely practical for the Christian growing in knowledge & grace
- It is a fitting follow-on from Hebrews which gives the 'why?' of Christian living...
- James gives us the 'how'

# Overview of the Epistle

- Endurance of Faith
  - Outward Trials & Inward Temptations 1:2-18
- Tests of the Genuineness of Faith
  - Our Response to the Word of God 1:19-27
  - Response to social distinctions 2:1-13
  - Evidence of good works to accompany Faith 2:14-26
  - The importance of self-control for a believer 3:1-18
  - Our relationship to the World 4:1-5:12
  - The foundation of prayer for a believer 5:12-18



# Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

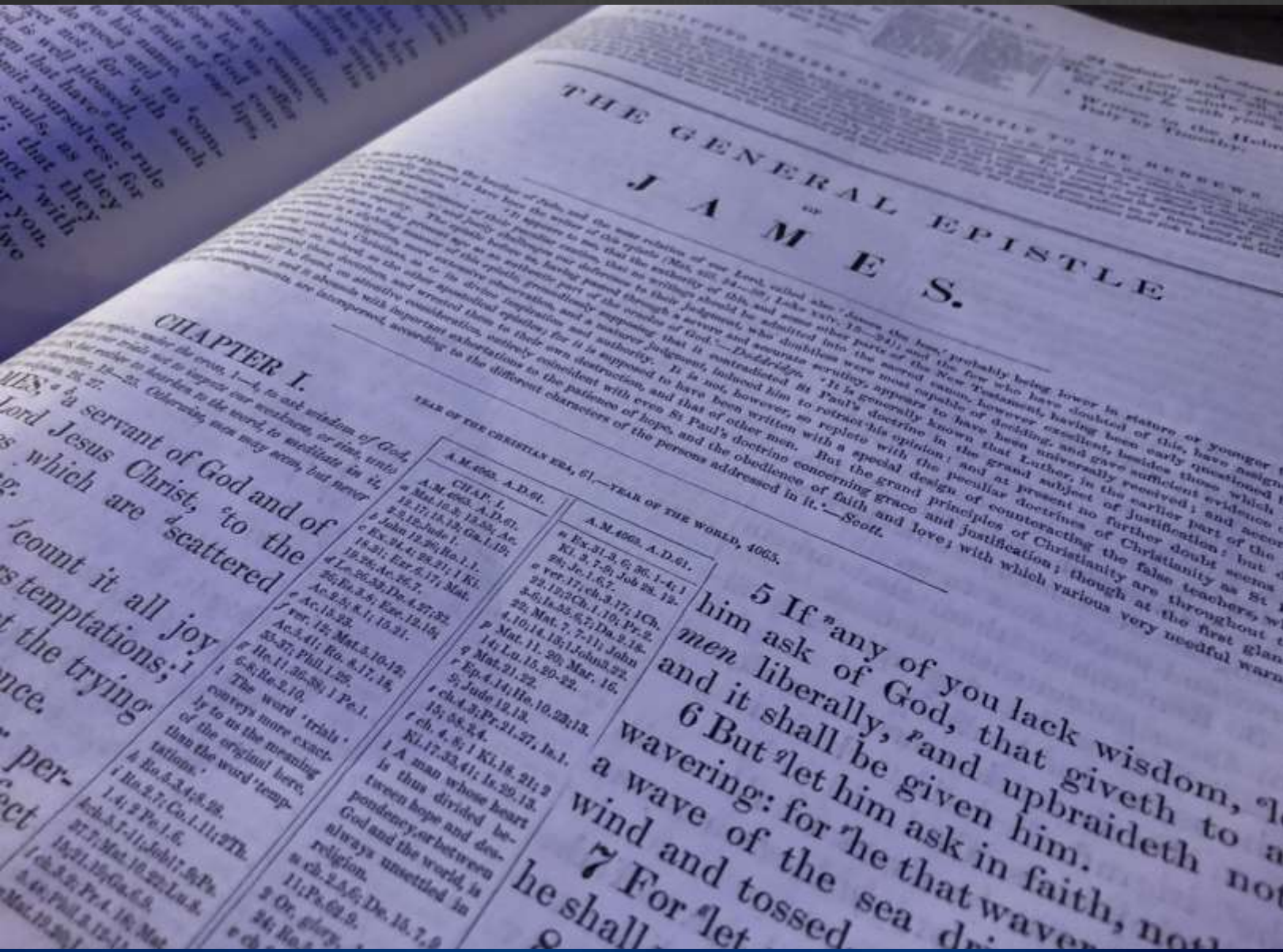
- James used nature to illustrate spiritual truth thirty times in five short chapters.
- There are frequent references to the law in this Letter. It is called “the perfect law” (1:25), “the royal law” (2:8), and “the law of liberty” (2:12).
  - James does not teach that his readers are under law for salvation or as a rule of life.
  - Rather, portions of the law are cited as instruction in righteousness for those who are under grace.

# Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- Key words: *Brethren* x 15
- . *Faith* x 15
- . *Works* x 13
- . *Wisdom* x 4
- The most authoritarian letter in the NT?
- James issues instructions more profusely than any of the other writers.
- In the 108 verses, there are 54 commands

# The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



# Chapter 1

Vs 1-15  
Overview

# Chapter 1: 1-15 Review

- How do you handle life's trials? vs 1-5
  - As a follower of Christ don't you realise that they are part of your Heavenly Brother's training programme for you? So you should count them as joy!
- How do you pray? vs. 6-8
  - Do you pray in faith? Or do you doubt that God would hear you? James knew his Brother and trusted Him implicitly! James tells us we can (and should) do the same.
- How do you treat others? vs. 9-11
  - Does your opinion of them depend on your estimate of their worth. James had made this mistake and for years had lived with someone but only seeing them through his own eyes and not through God's!

# Chapter 1: 1-15 Review

- How do you deal with temptation? vs. 12-15
  - You cannot blame others, temptations come from within. James had lived with One who had never yielded to temptation, and now knew first-hand that Jesus is able to impart that same grace and strength in each one of us to enable us to be overcomers! - and there is a reward promised to all who overcome temptation!

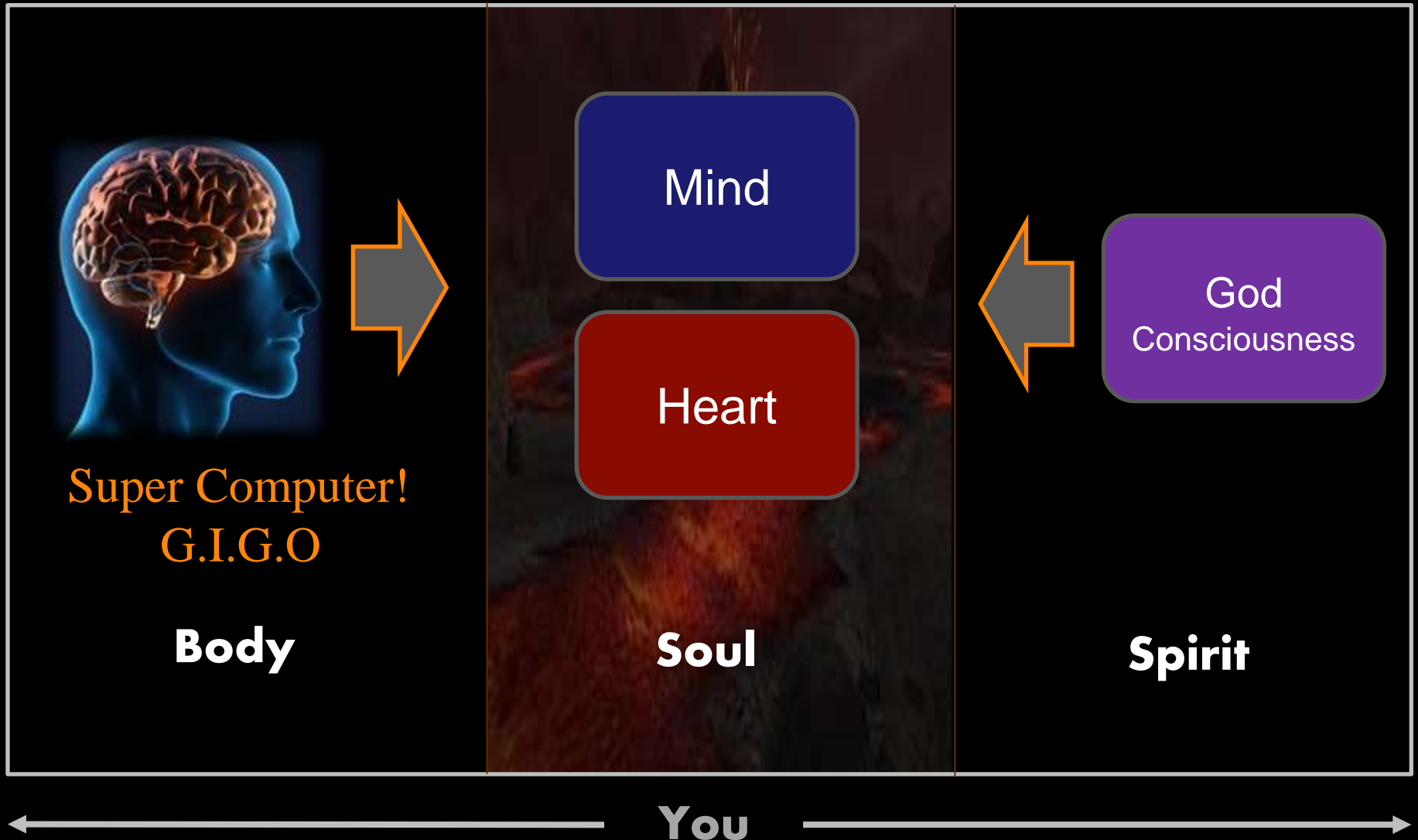
# Temptations

- Temptations will come
- A blessing is promised if we endure them
- We are expected to endure them
- God is not the source of temptations (Isaiah 45:7)
  - so note that they are different from trials!
- Don't blame God for temptations
- The Devil is also not the primary source of temptations

# Temptations

- Our hearts and minds are fertile soil where temptations can grow
- This is why what may be a temptation to one may not be to another
- We are commanded not to 'go astray' or 'wander'
- Temptations will result in death, progressively – starting as possibly innocuous

# Biblical Psychology 101



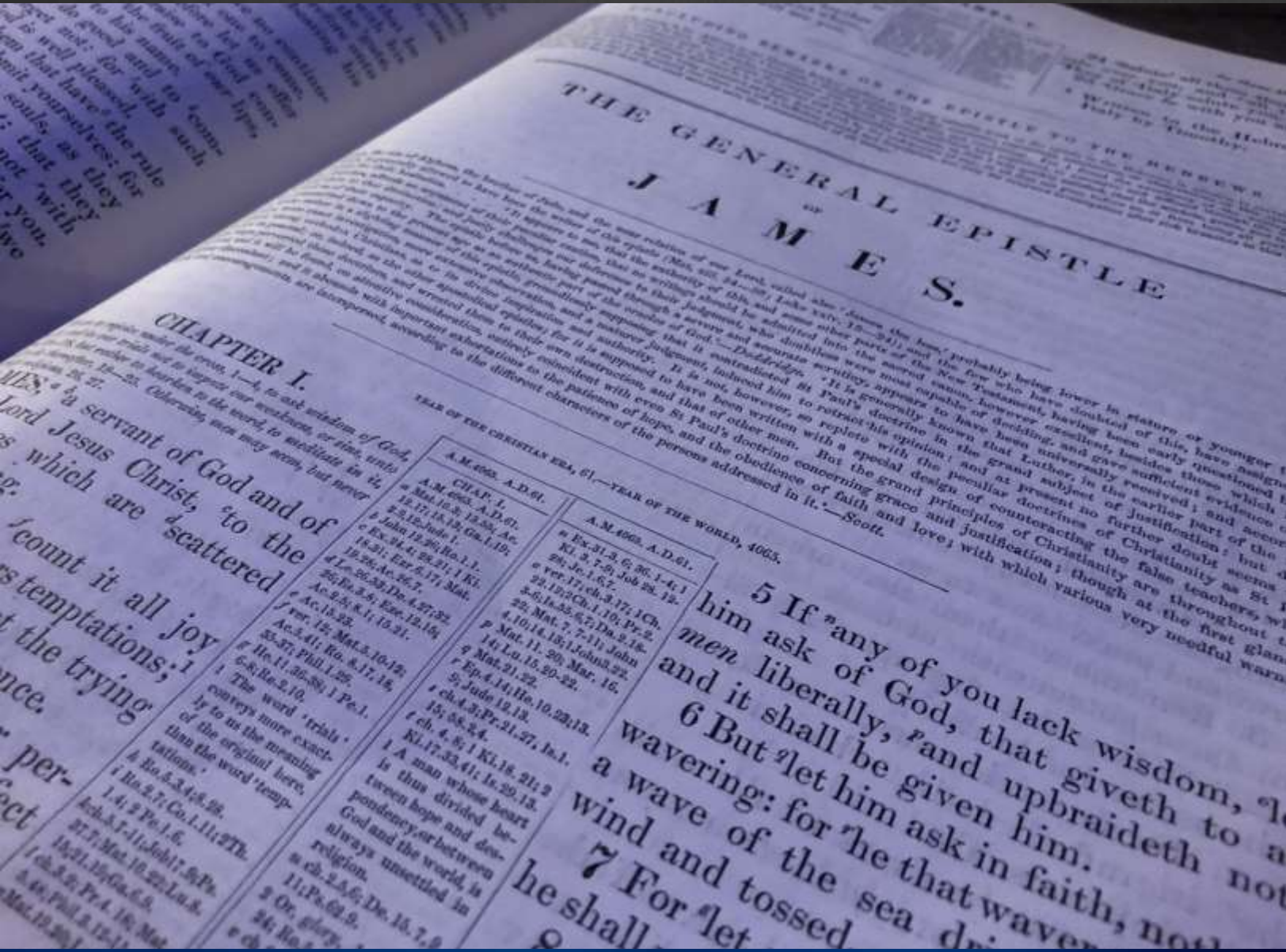


# The Five Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
  - A disciplined Christian life, no compromise
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
  - Overcoming temptation
- The Crown of Rejoicing - 1 Thes 2:19-21
  - Winning souls for Christ
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
  - Faithful in ministry
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8
  - Looking for His coming (Sanctified)

# The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



# Chapter 1

Vs 16-27

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

James 1:16

- *“Do not be deceived...!”*
- Do not continue being deceived!
  - Don’t blame God for temptations
  - Don’t blame the devil!
  - Remember that Eve was tempted BEFORE she fell
  - All the devil has in his toolbox are:
    - The lust of the flesh
    - The lust of the eyes
    - The pride of life

(see 1John 2:16)

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17

- In contrast to temptations...
  - Which are apparent shortcuts legitimate things but in an illegitimate way
- ...That which God gives are true and pure!
- We must 'study to show ourselves approved'
- Our minds must be renewed & transformed

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17

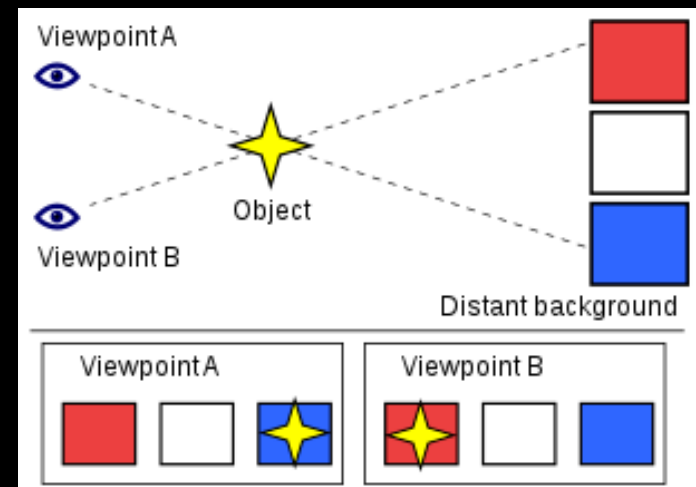
- The contrast is between the 'father of lies' and the Father of lights!



17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17

- The contrast is between the ‘father of lies’ and the Father of lights!
- “Variableness” – **Gr. *parallage*** (Parallax)
  - “the effect by which the position of an object seems to change when it is looked at from different positions”



18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth,  
that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

James 1:18

- We have been begotten with the Word
- The world was spoken into existence...
- Life began with the spoken word...
- *“The word properly signifies, He did the office of a mother to us, the bringing us into the light of life.” (Trapp)*

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

James 1:19

- *“But hath not Nature taught us the same that the apostle here doth, by giving us two ears, and those open; and but one tongue, and that hedged in with teeth and lips?”*  
(Trapp)



19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

James 1:19

- *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,*
  - *2 Tim 2:22*
    - *Apt to teach literally means 'Teachable'*
- *“Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame”.*
  - *Prov 25:4*

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

James 1:20

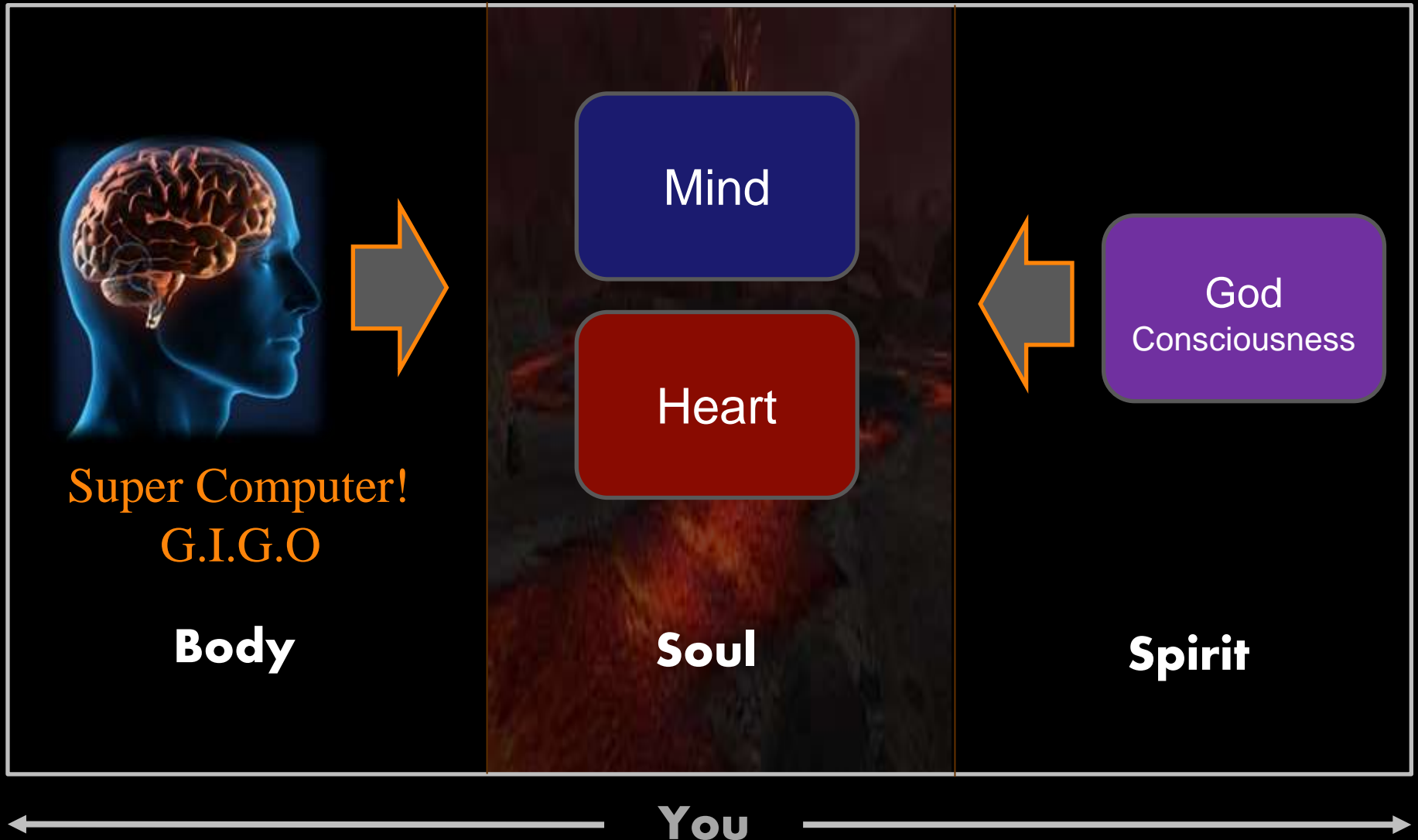
- What do we think we will accomplish by wrath?
- I've seldom regretted things I didn't say!

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:21

- Superfluity = ‘an overflow’ ...of wickedness
- *“The stinking filth of a pestilent ulcer. Sin is the devil’s vomit, the soul’s excrement, the superfluity or garbage of naughtiness [wickedness]... as it is here called by an allusion to the garbage of the sacrifices cast into the brook Kedron, that is, the town-ditch.”* (Trapp)
- Note how important the Word is!!

# Biblical Psychology 101



22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:22

- Jesus used this same point to conclude His great Sermon on the Mount. He said that the one who heard the word without doing it was like a man who built his house on the sand, but the one who heard God's word and did it was like a man whose house was built on a rock. The one who both heard and did God's word could withstand the inevitable storms of life and the judgment of eternity (Matthew 7:24-27).

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:22

- *“I fear we have many such in all congregations; admiring hearers, affectionate hearers, attached hearers, but all the while unblest hearers, because they are not doers of the word.”*  
(Spurgeon)

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

James 1:23-24

- *“The ancient Greek word translated ‘beholding’ has the idea of a careful scrutiny. By application, James had in mind people who give a careful scrutiny of God’s word; they may be regarded as Bible experts but it still doesn’t result in doing”*

– David Guzik



23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

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James 1:23-24

- *“The glass of the Word is not like our ordinary looking-glass, which merely shows us our external features; but, according to the Greek of our text, the man sees in it ‘the face of his birth’; that is, the face of his nature. He that reads and hears the Word may see not only his actions there, but his motives, his desires, his inward condition.”*

– Spurgeon



<sup>25</sup> But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:25

- Do we study God's Word like we study our own appearance?
- Do we spend as much time in God's Word as we do in front of the mirror?
- Time in front of a mirror can only impact the outward beauty...
- ...time in God's Word, the whole person!

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and  
bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this  
man's religion is vain

**James 1:26**

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1:27

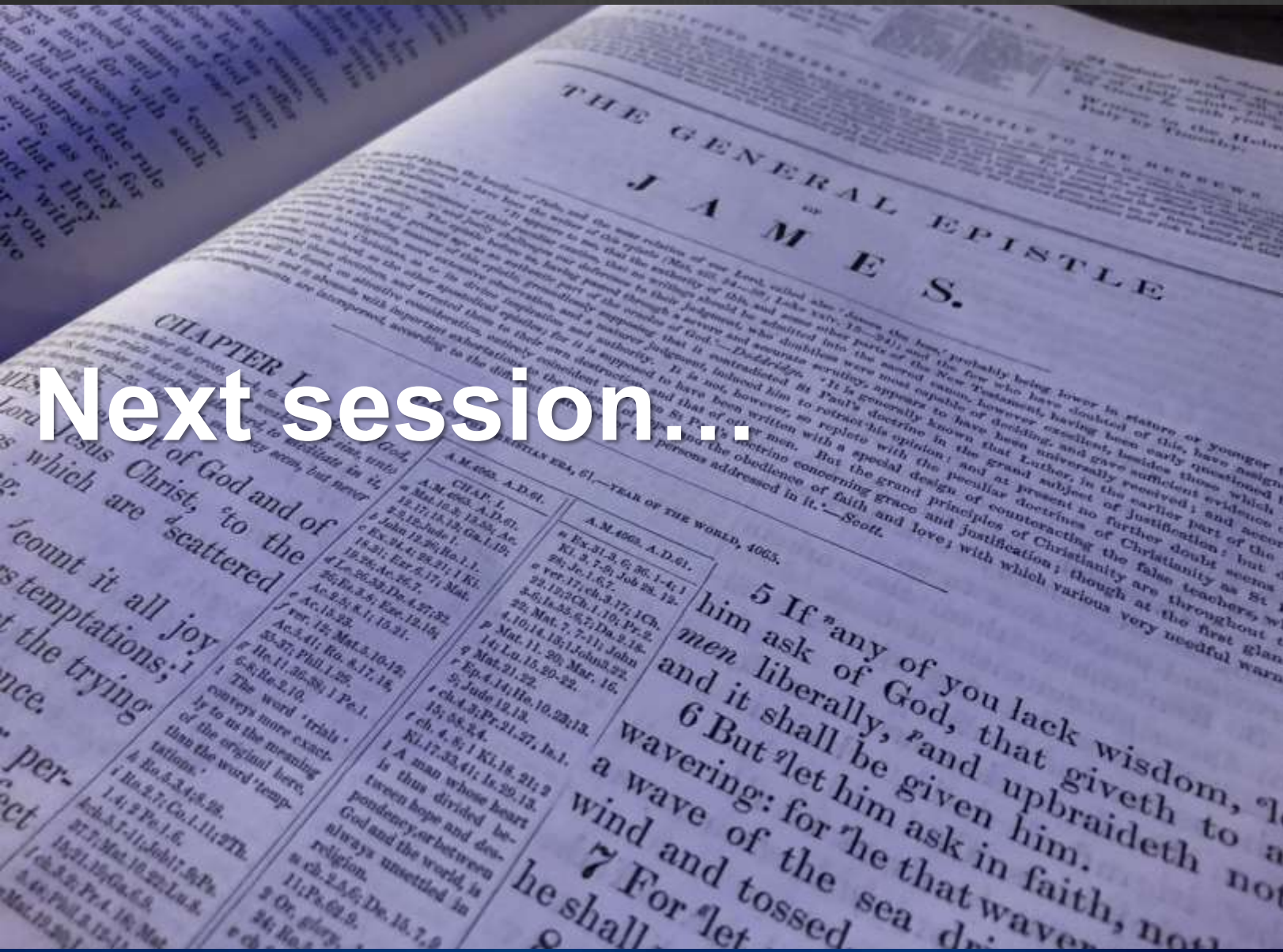
- This is the 'greatest commandment'
- Love your neighbor as yourself...
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength! (Mark 12:29-31)

# The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



# Chapter 2



Next session...

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him.  
6 But let him ask in faith, not wavering: for he that wavereth is as a wave of the sea, driven and tossed of the wind.  
7 For let him that is double minded, as he that breatheth both contrary winds, shall be blown about and tossed by the waves and shall weary himself, because he is double minded.

CHAPTER I  
The Epistle of James  
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.  
Against such there is no law.  
Whoever would love his neighbor as himself, love his neighbor as himself, for love is the fulfillment of the law.  
If you love your neighbor as yourself, you have fulfilled the commandments of the law.  
Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.  
Whoever loves his neighbor as himself, lives in love, and his love for his neighbor will be perfect.  
Whoever does not love his neighbor, does not know God, for God is love.  
Whoever loves God, must also love his brother who loves him.  
Whoever does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?  
Whoever has the goods of this world and sees his brother in need, but closes his heart against him, how can the love of God be in him?  
If you have the goods of this world and do not help your brother in need, your love is not genuine.  
If you have the goods of this world and do not help your brother in need, your love is not genuine.  
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