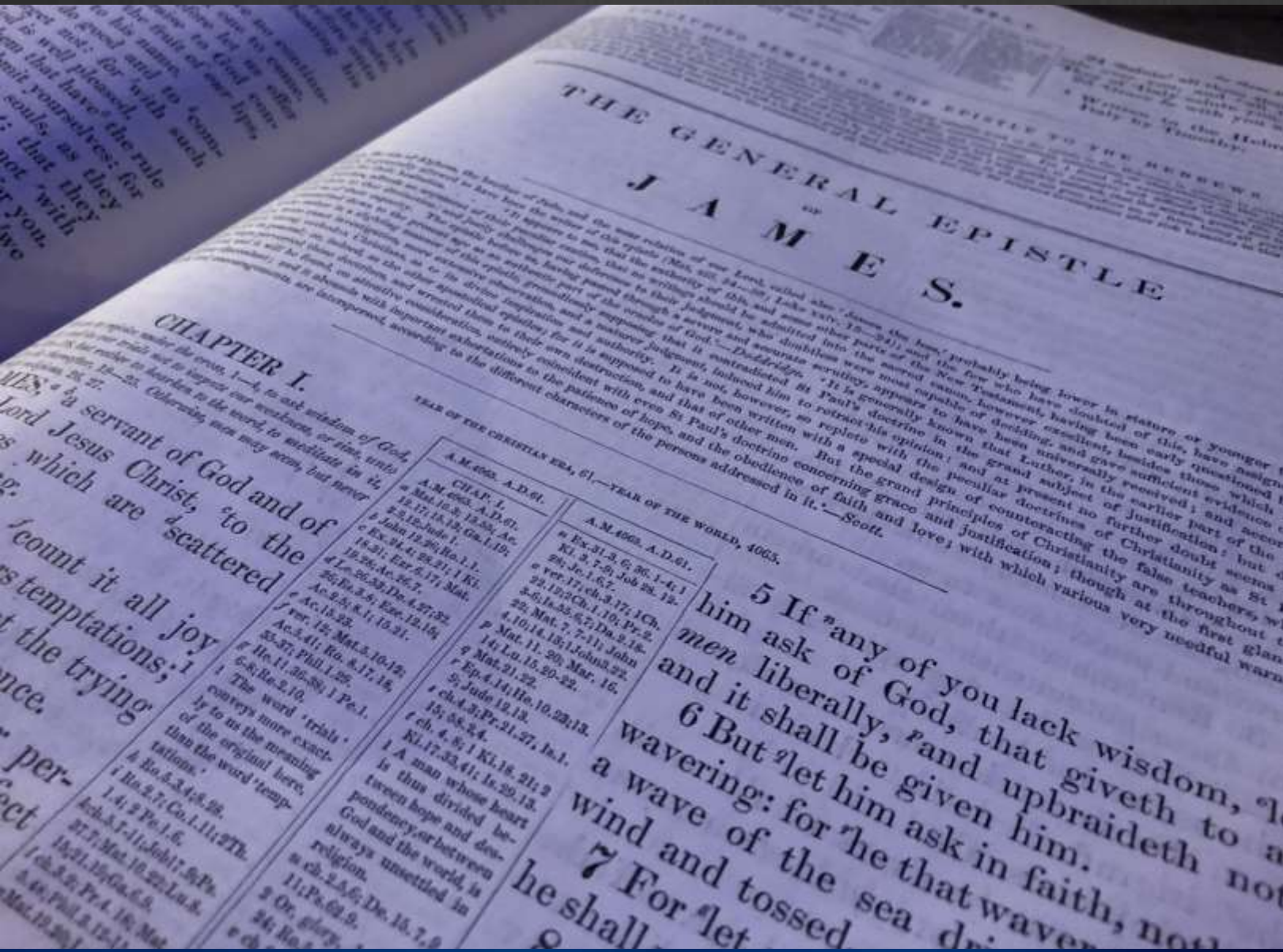


# The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



## Chapter 3



<sup>1</sup> My brethren, be not many **masters**, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

James 3:1

- Gr *Didaskalos*
  - Master(Jesus) 40x, teacher 10x, master 7x, doctor 1x
  - In the NT one who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man
  - One who is fitted to teach, or thinks himself so
- Whatever I ask of you, I am duty bound before God to do the same
- Important backdrop to this chapter!

<sup>2</sup> For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

James 3:2

- There are many ways we offend each other, particularly by the things we say!
- James is going to say some hard things in this chapter – so be prepared to be offended!
  - Or at least made uncomfortable!
- Only a perfect man can speak to the heart without offending
- We are quick to try to justify ourselves, so we naturally try to turn criticism around!

*The Holy Spirit is the only one in the proper position to criticize, and He alone is able to show what is wrong without hurting and wounding.*

Oswald Chambers – My Utmost For His Highest



<sup>3</sup> Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

James 3:3



<sup>4</sup> Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

**James 3:4**





<sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

James 3:5



- How many times have you been wounded – or wounded others – by what you have said?
- The tongue is far more powerful than we tend to think.
- 2 Dangers:
  - Firstly, a rash word spoken without thought
    - We can never undo the damage caused once words have left our lips!

*21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue:  
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

**Proverbs 18:21**



- How many times have you been wounded – or wounded others – by what you have said?
- The tongue is far more powerful than we tend to think.
- 2 Dangers:
  - Secondly, words intended to wound
    - Usually said in an attempt to justify ourselves

<sup>6</sup> A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

Proverbs 18:6

- How many times have you been wounded – or wounded others – by what you have said?
- The tongue is far more powerful than we tend to think.
- 2 Dangers:
  - Secondly, words intended to wound
    - Usually said in an attempt to justify ourselves

*22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds,  
and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

**Proverbs 26:22**

- We don't always observe the outward effect the tongue has on another
- So if our words do not illicit the visible response hoped for, we keep on going with our words as if to mortally wound our 'oppressor' & justify ourselves
- This is why Jesus tells us to exercise the enormous power of the tongue by a simple 'Yes' or 'No'.

<sup>37</sup> But let your word 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no' be 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one.

Matthew 5:37

- The impact (and damage) to the soul of our words to others can be immeasurable

<sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell

James 3:6

- Note the direction of influence
  - Remember also that Hell is not the devil's home!
- The tongue is not set on fire by the devil – but by 'Hell'
  - viz. the sin nature in us that is subject to wrath



<sup>8</sup> But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil,  
full of deadly poison.

James 3:8

- We can tame lions, bears, eagles and even snakes.
- We can control whales and swim with sharks...
- But no outward influence can tame or control your tongue
  - the control of the tongue must come from within
  - and it will depend on the source of flow into our heart + mind - which will determine character
- *“Character is what God knows you are. Reputation is what men think you are”.*
  - Leonard Ravenhill

<sup>7</sup> For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents,  
and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed  
of mankind:

**James 3:7**



<sup>8</sup> But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil,  
full of deadly poison.

James 3:8

- James adopts the mindset of the Beatitudes here
- ‘no man can tame’ ‘it is a lost cause’
  - viz. you cannot do this!
  - So if we cannot do it, why even try?
- You cannot go to a physician for help, because the tongue is not controlled by the physical but by the spiritual
- What is impossible for man is possible with God!
  - Luke 18:27

<sup>9</sup> Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

<sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

James 3:9-10

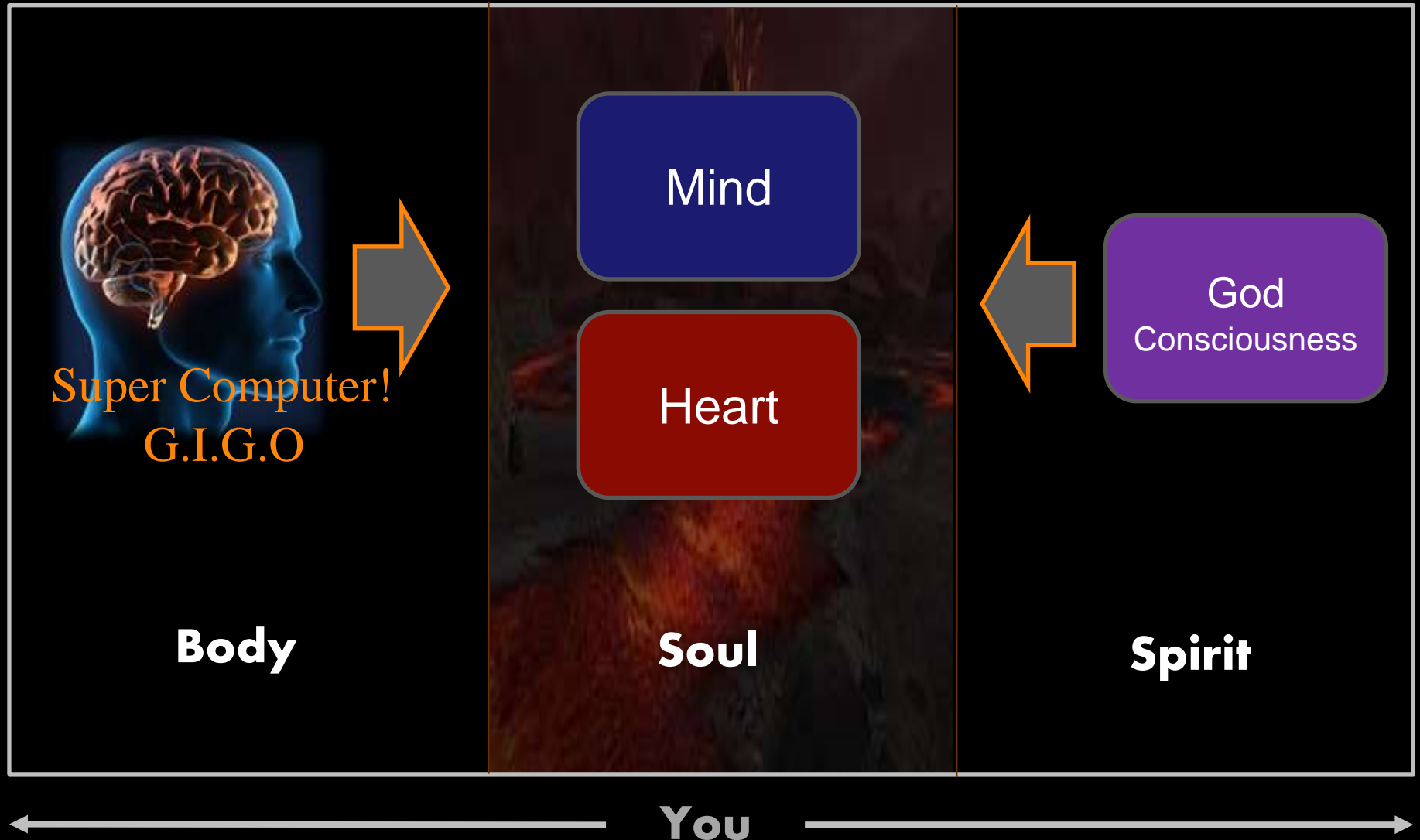
- There is a perversity and double standard if we produce ‘mixed fruit’ originating from two different sources but then coming from the same outlet
  - Consider the tongue indeed – but consider also the heart.
  - Is your heart showing affection for the things of the world and at the same time showing genuine affection for God?
  - This cries of the need to decide “who is on the Lord’s side” (See Ex 32:26)



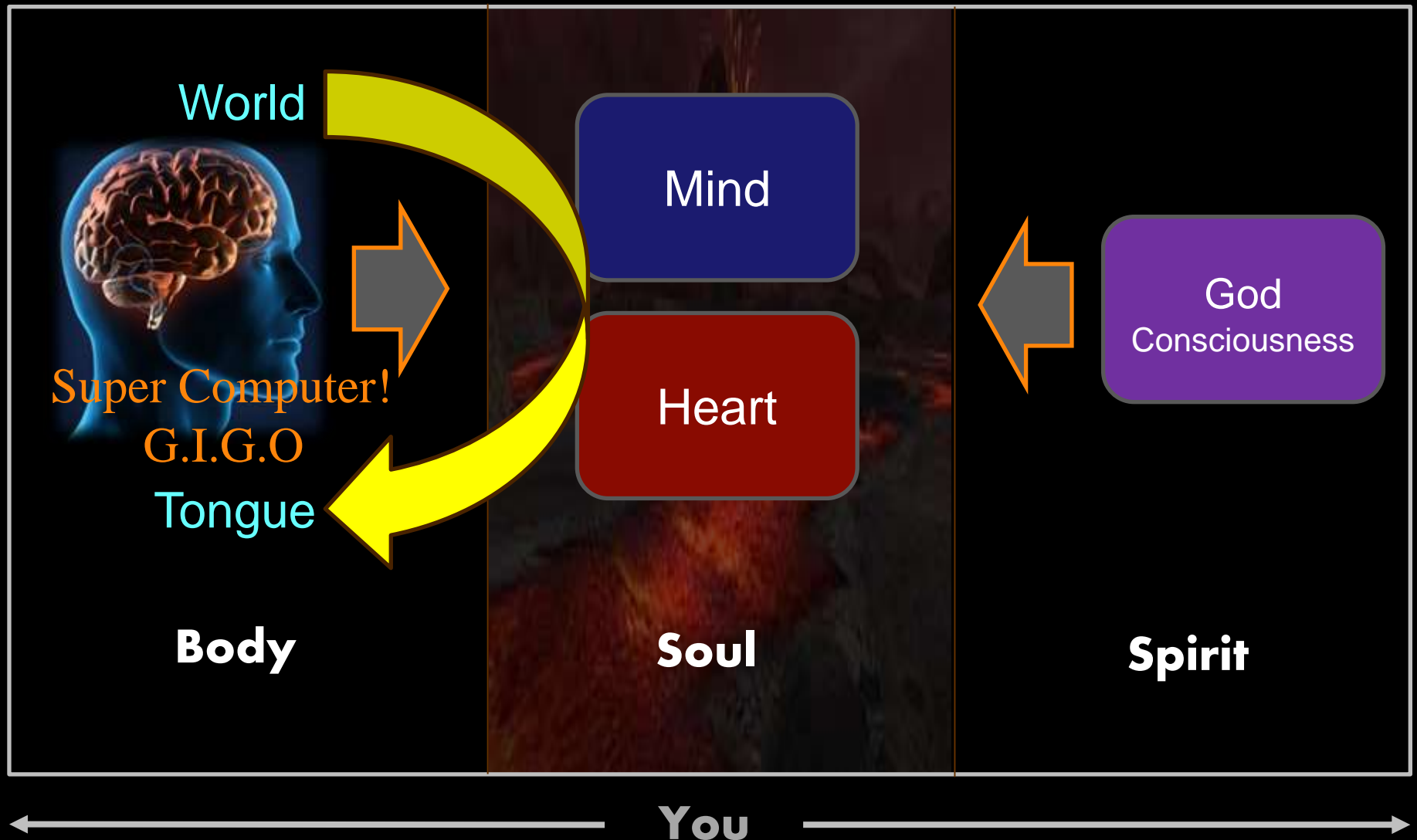
And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

**Mark 7:20-23**

# Biblical Psychology 101



# Biblical Psychology 101



<sup>11</sup> Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

**James 3:11**





12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries?  
either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt  
water and fresh.

James 3:12



You will only produce the fruit according to what you are  
inside – Determine then today what you are going to  
produce by determining what you are!

<sup>13</sup> Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

James 3:13

- Do you understand that we must put an end to this 'inner war'?
- If you do understand, your life must show it, in love, peace and patience,
- Not looking for 'mastery' but being content

33 Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth;  
for the faithful fail from among the children of men.  
They speak vanity every one with his neighbour:  
with flattering lips and with a double heart do they  
speak.

The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips,  
and the tongue that speaketh proud things:  
Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail;  
our lips are our own: who is lord over us?



14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

James 3:14

- Don't start rejoicing – or pretending that things are good with you – if there is still that inner turmoil because you are constantly looking over your shoulder at the things you have left behind!
- Consider Lot's wife – how she craved the things she had left – it was not time for celebrating her freedom



# Lot's Wife?



- She died free from the 'world' externally
- More than just her heart turned to stone!

<sup>15</sup> This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

<sup>16</sup> For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James 3:15-16

- The flow of worldly wisdom
- If we have an internal battle – envying the things of the flesh we know we should not have - there is confusion which becomes a nurture bed for all evil
- Who is on the LORD's side?
- Are you ready to take His hand as He leads you out of your Sodom?

**17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

**18** And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

**James 3:2**

# God's Peace

- Hebrew: *Shalom*
- Root: *La shalem*
  - Pay
  - Fill
  - Fulfill
- *We have peace, because Jesus paid the price, fulfilled the law, & filled us with His Holy Spirit*



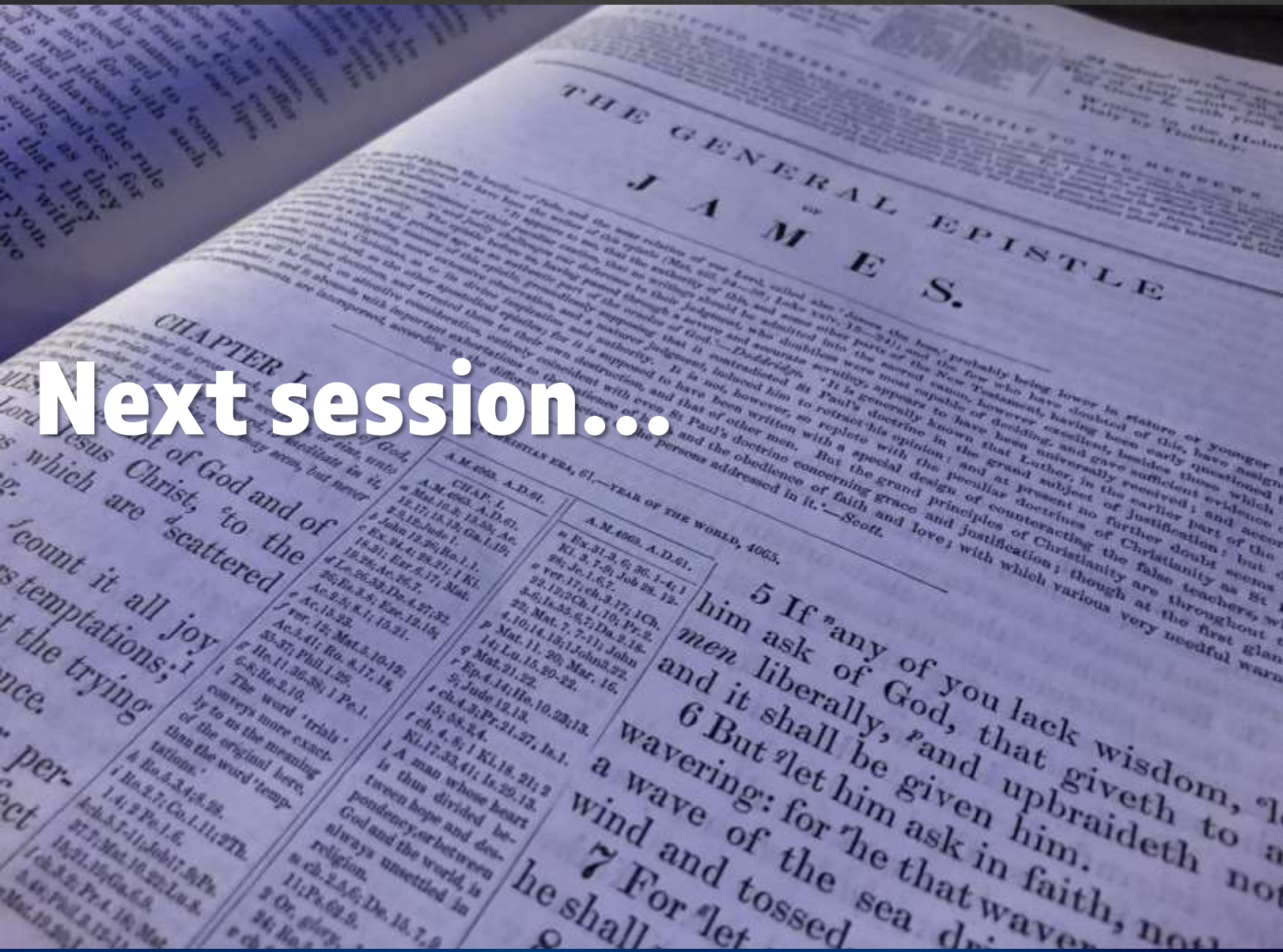
# The Epistle of James

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## Chapter 4

Next session...





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