

# **James**

## **It is time to grow up!**

**Men to Men Ministry**

**Lesson 2**

**Trials, Tests, and Temptations**

- 2) Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various **trials**,
- 3) knowing that the **testing** of your faith produces endurance.
- 4) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

12) Blessed is a man who perseveres under **trial**; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13) Let no one say when he is **tempted**, “I am being **tempted** by God”; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

14) But each one is **tempted** when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin;

15) and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

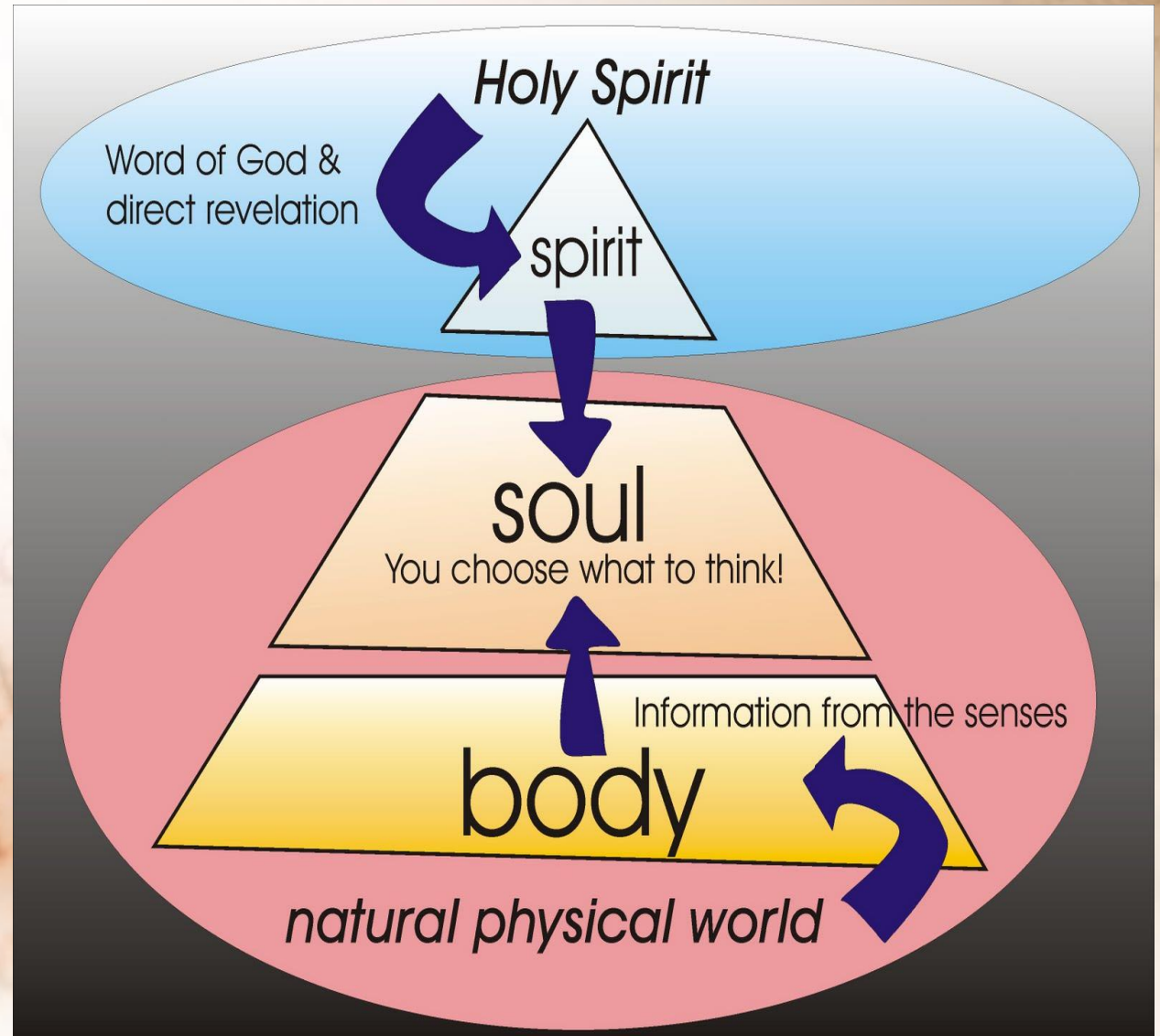
**James 1:2-8, 12-15**

# Why do we do the things we do?

- ANTHROPOS

- The SPIRIT *pneuma*
- The BODY *sarx*
- The SOUL *psuche*

Every willful action is motivated from two sources of information from the body and information from the spirit!





# Story of the Flat tire!



# What is the difference between a trial and a temptation?

## Trial or Test

***peirasmois*** πειρασμοῖς

### Source:

challenge or test allowed by God.  
An external circumstance.

**Purpose:** for the development of preservice, reliance upon God leading to spiritual growth.

### Goal:

To increase our spiritual maturity

## Temptation

***peirasmois*** πειρασμοῖς

### Source:

Internal desire or external (devil)  
Based upon our own desires and or weaknesses.

### Purpose:

The intention is to lead us to sin and spiritual harm.

### Goal:

To fall and stray from our faith.

# **Trials**

***James 1:2-4, 12***

***Count it all JOY, when you face trials of various kinds, because they test your faith and produce endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is the man who endures under trial, for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him.***

# **Trial**

- **God uses trials to test your faith.**
- **Trial requires an act of the will on our part.**
  - **Not knee-jerk response**
  - **Not a momentary flighting thought.**
  - **It takes a volitional decision on our part.**
- **God uses circumstances to provide us with an opportunity to grow in our faith**
  - **It produces endurance. Practice for the next trial.**
  - **Endurance has a perfect result**
    - **That I may be perfect**
    - **That I may be complete**
    - **That I may lack nothing.**
    - **That I may be blessed**
    - **That I may be approved**
    - **That I may receive the crown of life**
    - **That I may receive the promise.**
    - **That I may prove that I love Him.**



I can resist everything  
except temptation.

Oscar Wilde

quote fancy

## **Temptation**

**13) Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.**

**14) But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin;**

**15) and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.**



# **Temptation**

- **Personal battles**
- **Temptation is caused by our individual weakness**
- **Temptation starts with a trial and moves away from God's will.**
- **Temptation requires an act of the will on our part.**
  - **Not a knee-jerk response**
  - **Not a momentary fleeting thought.**
  - **It takes a volitional decision on our part.**
- **Temptation is assessment of a desire and a decision to entertain the negative.**

# **Temptation's result**

- **You can turn it back into a trial by a willful decision call upon God.**
- **You can give up to this personal pull of our desires**
  - **To be carried away – an active purposeful distancing from God and His resources.**
  - **To be enticed – lured after, following the path**
  - **By the emotional attachment of our bodily lusts.**
  - **Then our lust creates something**
    - **Conceived**
    - **Birthed**
    - **SIN**
  - **This SIN when it is accomplished brings its end in Death.**

# **So what is a temptation?**

- **Temptations are much more personal.**
- **Temptation is not an instinctual response of alarm.**
- **Temptation is making the decision move toward self-will and not God's will.**
- **Temptations come from our self weakness.**
- **Temptation are our personal battles.**
- **Temptation comes from our desires to dance with danger.**

**13) Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.**

**14) But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin;**

**15) and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.**

# Does God cause trials and temptations?

- **Absolute Sovereignty**
  - **God controls everything**
  - **Every circumstance, Good or Bad is dictated by God.**
  - **The flat tire was the perfect will of God**
  - **The purpose was to refine and strengthen your faith.**
- **Free Will**
  - **God does not directly cause trials**
  - **God allows them to happen**
  - **The flat tire was an opportunity to refine and strengthen your faith.**

## The story of Job

God permitted Satan to test JOB's faith through severe trials

God did not directly cause JOB's suffering.

JOB's faith did not waiver even though his so called friends tried to convince him to give it all up.

# **How do we find JOY in trial.**

***Count it all JOY, when you face trials of various kinds, because they test your faith and produce endurance.***

## ***Water works***

**I Peter 1:6,7, “In this YOU greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

# Lesson

- **Trials test you.**
- **The put pressure upon you**
- **It is my decision as a follower of Jesus to respond well.**
  - **A trial is to allow us to GROW UP.**
  - **A temptation pulls us to SIN**
  - **Trials will lead to Joy**
  - **Temptations lead to death.**
- **A trial allows God's grace to flower and grow us.**
- **A trial is about doing the moral thing.**
- **A trail will strengthen and purify.**