

James 1:16-21  
“How Am I Different?”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 1:16-21)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “How Am I Different?”

~ INTRO ~

AS WE CONTINUE TODAY...

- Let's remember a few things about the book of James.

1<sup>st</sup> – REMEMBER...

- James was exhorting Christians to live an authentic faith in a hostile world!

**\*The same thing needed for Christian today!**

HIS MAIN THEME IS...

- Real Faith That Produces Genuine Works.

JAMES SAYS...

- If you've accepted Jesus Christ as your savior...
  - Then let your life give evidence of that profession!

HIS OWN LIFE TEACHES US...

- That proximity to Jesus doesn't guarantee faith!
  - He was raised in the same house as Jesus...
    - Yet dismissed the very teachings of Christ.

SO TOO IN THE BUILDINGS WE CALL CHURCHES...

- Religious people do all kinds of special deeds, but don't know Jesus!
  - Kids are raised in the best Christian homes and don't know Jesus!

THIS IS AN ALL TOO TRAGIC REALITY...

- Lives governed by RULES instead of GRACE.

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> – We’ve explored a section on *trials*...  
- And a section on *temptations*.

WE LEARNED...

- One’s from God = (*trials*) & ones from Satan = (*temptations*).

**TRIALS:** Are to be accepted as God strengthening & stabilizing our faith.

Maybe your experiencing a tough season right now...

- And you’re trying to trace down a natural REASON...  
➤ To a spiritual problem.

LISTEN...

- God is wanting to bring spiritual health to an area of your life...  
➤ But you won’t sit still and listen as He speaks. (Ps. 32:8-9)

**TEMPTATIONS:** Are to be understood as Satan trying to destroy our faith.

- He always promises a good time...  
➤ And never reveals how much it’s going to cost!

**~ STUDY ~**

WELL... TODAY...

- We move into the next section...  
➤ On how to overcome temptations...  
○ AND how God’s character builds our faith.

**IDEA #1 – HEADS UP:** (vv.16-18)

(v.16) NKJV

**a) Look ahead...**

THE SOLUTION FOR TEMPTATION...

- Is to stay in a close relationship with the Lord...  
➤ So we’re not led away in error.

GOD GIVES US SPIRITUAL EYES TO SEE...

- And He commissions us to use them.

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(1 Tim. 4:7(b) NLT

“...train yourself to be godly.”

WE'RE TO...

- **Look ahead** and realize the painful consequences...
  - That come from giving into temptation...
    - (Eph. 4:30(a) NLT

(v.17) NKJV

**b) Look around...**

WE'RE TO BE THANKFUL FOR GOD'S GOODNESS:

- i. What He gives = *good gifts*
- ii. How He gives = *perfect gifts*
- iii. When He gives = *comes down*

WE MISS THIS IN OUR ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS.

- The idea here (Grk. present participle)...
  - Meaning: *It keeps on coming down...*
    - God gives continually – He never stops!

I CAN TAKE TERRITORY...

- Reassured that I'm not on my own.
  - (Deut. 31:8) NLT
    - “fail nor abandon you”

BUT... SATAN WANTS TO TEMPT US...

- Into questioning God / doubting God / and turning away from God!
  - He's not able to do THAT!?!)

“no variation or shadow of turning”

- i. God can't change
- ii. He's Holy (never gets worse)
- iii. He's perfect (He doesn't get any better)

GOD'S CHARACTER IS CONSTANT...

- Which means our relationship with Him is stable & secure!!!

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(v.18) NLT

**c) Look at God...**

GANG WE'RE GOD'S...

- *“prized possession.”* (v.18(b) NLT)

LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING AMAZING...

- For a moment.

SOMETHING ALL TOO OBVIOUS...

- That's discounted!

**(Gen. 2:7) NKJV**

- God gave us the breath of life...  
➤ AND **He IS** the breath of life.

**YHWH** = (Yahweh)

- The tetra-gram-ma-ton = Lit. four letters.  
➤ All consonants... no vowels.

**\*PRONOUNCE NAME HERE\***

LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH...

- Praise the Lord! **(Ps. 150:6) NKJV**

**(Ex. 3:13-15) NLT**

GOD IS AS CLOSE TO YOU AS YOUR VERY BREATH!!!

- He's the great “I AM”...  
➤ Now fill in the blank with your need.

**(Phil 4:6) NLT**

- *“tell God what you need & thank Him for what He's done”*

FINAL IDEA FOR TODAY...

**IDEA #2 – EVIDENCE IS REQUIRED: (vv.19-21)**

(v.19) NLT

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- *quick to listen* = Ready to follow & apply to your life
- *slow to speak* = Cautious & not reckless
- *slow to get angry* = Think before you act

**HERE’S THE IDEA:**

**WHEN I’M GOVERNED BY GOD...**

- There’s evidence in my life:
  - a) I submit to His word.
  - b) My speech is changed
  - c) I’m guided by the Holy Spirit

**ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE...**

- Christians naturally produces these fruits:
  - a) Growing (Rom. 6:22)
  - b) Spiritual character (Gal. 5:22-23)
  - c) Good works (Col. 1:10)
  - d) Sharing material possession (Rom. 15:28)
  - e) Praising the Lord (Heb. 13:15)
  - f) Soul winning (Rom. 1:16)

**IN OTHER WORDS...**

- A follower of Jesus...
  - Is quick to put into practice what he learns!

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

**NO MATTER WHERE YOU’RE AT THIS MORNING...**

- I want you to know...
  - That YHWH (Yahweh) is a God that heals!!!

**SO I WOULD LIKE TO CALL...**

- All those who need healing (health / spirit / emotions / finances / etc.)...
  - To make your way forward right.

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(Deut. 31:8) NLT  
- *“fail nor abandon you”*

*~ LET'S PRAY ~*