

# James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

# Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
  - Issue and examples (2:1-7)
  - Correction (2:8-13)
  - **Works and Faith (2:14-20)**
  - Examples: Abraham and Rahab! (2:21-26)
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

# But it is only a little sin...? (11)

- All it takes is the smallest break!
  - we cannot pick and choose what laws we will keep and what laws we will violate.
  - we cannot build up a merit system with God by keeping most of the laws and be allowed to break a few of the laws, or even just one!
  - we cannot become more acceptable to God because we keep most of the laws and break only a few.
- Murder or Adultery or Prejudice or...
  - ALL these are the same and cost the same!
  - No venial and mortal ideas here...

# A conclusion (12, 13)

- As you speak/act – make sure of your stand!
  - To a Jew, hearing and obeying is the same!
- Judged by the law of LIBERTY (1:25)
  - Not the law of sin and death...
  - Love opens doors that not other attitude can
- Do we want mercy or judgment?
  - Mt 5:7; 6:14, 15, 18:21-35
  - ‘nuff said?

# Major thought introduced (2:14-20)

- James has hinted at the need for follow-thru
  - See 1:22-27
- The need for works from faith: 2 questions
  - Can a man have faith and not do good works?
  - Can faith without good works save a man?
  - So, a person who calls himself Christian but does no acts of responding faith in lifestyle???
  - James calls this “dead faith” (17,20,26)
  - Vain, empty, unprofitable, “says he has faith”
  - This is NOT salvation by works, but faith responses

## 3 illustrations from “life”

- Destitute believers (15-17)
  - This is a fellow believer or not... does it matter?
  - Wishing with no actions? Pr 3:27,28 do it NOW!
  - All the words won't help, something more is needed
- 2 arrogant men (18)
  - You have faith, I have works... *deiknuo* - expose, proof
  - Neither is useful alone... (Mt 7:21,22)
- Demon thinking? (19,20)
  - Know there is One God is good, but not enough...
  - Mt 8:29 – they know, but no works that follow