James #24

Faith is either being built up or being torn down.

Open back up in our anchor study of James chapter one RF.

Please keep Karyn M’s husband (California) in prayer. Karyn’s husband is battling cancer and facing surgery.

Let us read right through the beginning of this chapter to keep us on track.

Jam 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

[Jas 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/2/s_1147002) Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters,* when you encounter various trials,

WHEN we encounter trials is a matter of fact.

Adversity, self-induced misery and testing or attacks, are all factored into the plan of GOD the Father from eternity past.

[Jas 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/3/s_1147003) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

[Jas 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/4/s_1147004) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

There is a series of building blocks being highlighted. To reach a fullness of Christ, in this temporal walk, points to the highest level of Spiritual Maturity.

It is not sinless perfection!

[Jas 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/5/s_1147005) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Divine wisdom is in view here.

The pathway to true wisdom is accurate knowledge – BD.

[Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/6/s_1147006) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

The focus is upon the faith of the Christian.

Faith is found deep within your soul before it manifested in your life.

/[Jas 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/7/s_1147007) For that person **ought not to expect** that he will receive **anything from the Lord,\**

[Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Turn in your bibles to Romans chapter 14 RF.

/Your faith is built on four basic principles; the study of the accuracy of the WORD, positivity toward a legitimate target for that faith (Christ), the filling power of the HS and testing for growth of that faith. The majority of this takes place within the construction of the Edification Complex of the Soul – the process of building is endurance in faith, strengthening of faith and application of faith. Faith-rest begins to then become a powerful reality for the Believer.\

We studied the ECS - and it is imperative to realize that construction is ongoing, it cannot be left dormant for long periods of time.

When it does it is similar to the construction of a house, that is left unfinished – it will slowly erode and the thrones and thistles of the world will grow and tangle into it.

 REPEAT

Within Romans chapter 14 – the Apostle Paul is covering a lesson that not only relates to how mature Bels should be an example for new Bels.

But also, how the Christian grows into maturity and should not be overcome by legalistic standards at every turn.

Your relationship is between you and GOD.

Always remember - GOD is not mocked, what we sow we often reap and we have to be accountable and responsible.

We should mature into a place where others matter in our life – we let go of the egoistical attitudes and focus on being a Christian with character and integrity. A Bel who positively touches the lives around us.

Doing so without conforming into a religious zealot with legalistic tendencies.

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

Much of this was in relation to eating, drinking or certain rituals in reference to pagan rituals. It is similar to the lesson the Apostle Paul taught in 1Corinthians chapter 8.

About the concerns of not eating meat sacrificed to idols.

/[Rom 14:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/14/17/s_1060017) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**.

The emphasis on true spirituality is seen in the New Nature with the mind of Christ ingrained in our soul.\

BD ingrained in the soul is the sturdiness of your personal ECS.

The kingdom of GOD is within your soul right now – we are a part of the kingdom of GOD.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Kingdom of GOD – when HE rules on earth in the 1,000 years of the Millennial reign, it will be a physical presence of God’s kingdom on earth.

Right now, in time, we make up a representation of the kingdom of God.

/We bring forth a representation of the Kingdom of God by means of the HS;

Righteousness – *dikaiosynē,* Divine Righteousness, the purity of the virtue of Christ.

Peace – *eirēnē,* a calm assurance, the harmony and tranquility of Christ.

Joy – *chara,* a fullness of contentment and relaxed mental attitude of inner joy. The humanity of Christ displayed this contentment. \

DEE-KAY-US-SOON-A, this is a righteousness imputed into your soul at the moment of salvation. The very righteousness of Christ was given to us which is our supernatural union with HIM.

I-RAIN-EE, speaks to a harmony and calm assurance. TLJC was never a hot mess emotionally or physically.

KAR-RAH, this is divine happiness it is not an emotional overload of nonsense, it is a relaxed MA and a contentment in any given moment. REPEAT

The fullness of Christ given to you in God’s Grace Plan has to be built up within your soul.

It is already perfect and prepared for you, in the temporal life we are called into developing a capacity because this fullness of Christ does not operate from a flawed position.

 REPEAT

[Rom 14:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/14/18/s_1060018) For the one who serves Christ in this *way* is acceptable to God and approved by *other* people.

This is a learning process and a developing process but the end result is already done and perfect.

That is why you often hear me use the term - position verses condition.

[Rom 14:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/14/19/s_1060019) So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

To pursue is a Greek verb that means to chase and follow after, to be aggressive or even hostile in your pursuit.

It is written in the active voice – pointing to the Christian’s responsibility.

/[Rom 14:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/14/20/s_1060020) **Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food**. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the person who eats and causes offense.

Many Christians do not understand the nature of maturity. How it brings forth freedom and a relaxed mental attitude, not legalism or loose living.\

Legalistic Bels tear down any form of an ECS they may had begun to build, as do the Christians who use grace as a license to sin.

When a Christian abuses their own liberty and spiritual freedom they can also tear down the Edification Complex of a weaker Bel who they are influencing.

 REPEAT

Our decisions and actions often touch many people beyond our own life.

[Rom 14:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/14/21/s_1060021) It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother *or sister* stumbles.

SM Bels are careful of leaving bad examples for weak Bels and new Bels.

Mature Christians care about the weak areas and struggles of others, especially the members of the Royal family.

Because Spiritual Maturity recognizes OTHERS over self.

/[Rom 14:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/14/22/s_1060022) The **faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God**. Happy is the one who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

The legalistic Bel and the Bel who hides behind God’s grace to live in sin, are building a soul structure that appeases the OSN.\

They tear down faith - often times not just their own… but others in their periphery.

What these types of Christians bring are damaging examples of the kingdom of God.

When your own faith is weak and yet you present yourself as holding the truth of BD to others, this places your spiritual walk and your prayer life in a compromised position.

Therefore, we now see what Pastor James was teaching in James 1:7;

/[Rom 14:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/14/23/s_1060023) But the one who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and **whatever is not from faith is sin**.

Jas 1:7 For that person **ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord**,\

James was actually addressing Bels who were predominately Jewish. Teaching them that going backward into Judaism, or even forward into a new pseudo-spiritual realm of abusing the grace of God is unacceptable.

/There is a right thing done in the right way – your prayers will not be answered, nor will your spiritual walk be blessed by God, unless that Edification Complex in your soul is building upon a genuine faith by means of the Spirit and BD. James was aware, many Jewish converts were backsliding into Judaism, Gnostic beliefs or straying into secularism.\

The historic context matters – so Pastor James was not being harsh in relation to our LORD neglecting our prayers and ignoring spiritual growth.

That is not the desire of GOD at all.

James was teaching a very important principle; that the Filling Power of God the HS and the accuracy of the WORD are the only pathway into constructing a powerful soul structure with a real growing faith.

 REPEAT

God has a set of standards and guidelines that answer to HIS own justice system. HE can never ignore those standards.

You can call the Edification Complex of the Soul what you like, but I tell you… we cannot deny the spiritual power behind that structure.

There are many definitions and terms used in relation to this seen throughout scriptures.

Get you pens and note pads ready; we will close with a very extensive list on this exact subject matter.

There are many biblical synonyms for the ECS: Light, Glory, the fullness of God, or Christ being formed in you - are some you may recognize.

/Psalm 43:3 **Send out Your light and Your truth**, they shall lead me; They shall bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.

 Psa 119:130 The **unfolding of Your words gives light;** It gives understanding to the simple.\

 The unfolding of BD deep in the soul constructs a structure of divine light.

These are all description of what occurs in the soul of a growing Believer.

/Jer 13:16 **Give glory to the LORD your God Before He brings darkness** And before your feet stumble On the mountains in the dark, And while **you are hoping for light** He makes it into gloom, *And* turns *it* into thick darkness.\

You can never reflect the glory of GOD, or give true glory to GOD with false doctrine and emotional garbage in the soul.

This is a warning that the lack of a strong soul structure brings confusion and darkness.

/Eph 5:8 for you were once darkness, but **now you are light in the Lord**; walk as **children of light** 9 (for the fruit of the light *consists* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 **as you try to learn** what is pleasing to the Lord.\

This is a growing process – a capacity process, that brings you into a fullness of Christ.

*As you try and learn* - speaks to forward motion in spiritual growth – forward motion of the construction of the ECS.

You become able to truly walk in your eternal position which is perfect - IN CHRIST.

/Eph 5:13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for **everything that becomes visible is light**.

When you ECS has reached greater strength, the Fruit of the Spirit will naturally shine forth in your walk.\

What is being built should become visible at some point in your walk with GOD.

/1Cor 11:7 For a man should not have his head covered, since **he is the image and glory of God;** but the woman is the glory of man.

/Eph 3:17 so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to **comprehend** with all the saints what is **the width and length and height and depth**, 19 and to know the love of Christ which **surpasses knowledge**, that you may **be filled to all the fullness of God.**\

This section of Ephesians 3 points directly to what the Christian should be building in the soul. What is the width, the height and the depth of the mind of Christ which is being built in you?

/Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor **until Christ is formed in you**—

Jas 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (Eph 4:24, Col 3:10)\