THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JAMES

1 James a servant of God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve Tribes, which are scattered abroad, salutation. 2 My brethren, count it exceeding joy, when ye fall into divers tentations, 3 Knowing that ye trying of your faith bringeth forth patience, 4 And let patience have her perfect worke, that ye may be perfect and entier, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacke wisedome, let him aske of God, which giueth to all men liberally, and reprocheth no man, and it shalbe giuen him. 6 But let him aske in faith, and wauer not: for hee that wauereth, is like a waue of the sea, tost of the winde, and caried away. 7 Neither let that man thinke that hee shall receiue any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is vnstable in all his waies. 9 Let the brother of lowe degree reioyce in that he is exalted: 10 Againe hee that is rich, in that hee is made lowe: for as the flower of the grasse, shall he vanish away. 11 For as when the sunne riseth with heate, then the grasse withereth, and his flower falleth away, and the goodly shape of it perisheth: euen so shall the rich man wither away in all his waies. 12 Blessed is ye man, that endureth tentation: for when he is tried, hee shall receive the crowne of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that loue him. 13 Let no man say when hee is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God can not bee tempted with euill, neither tempteth he any man. 14 But euery man is tempted, when hee is drawn away by his owne concupiscence, and is entised. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth foorth sinne, and sinne when it is finished, bringeth foorth death. 16 Erre not, my deare brethren. 17 Euery good giuing, and every
perfect gift is from above, and commeth downe from the Father of lights, with whome is no variablenes, neither shadow of turning. 18 Of his owne will begate hee vs with the woorde of truth, that we shoule be as the first fruities of his creatures. 19 Wherefore my deare brethren, let every man be swift to heare, slowe to speake, and slowe to wrath. 20 For the wrath of man doeth not accomplish the righteousnesse of God. 21 Wherefore lay apart all filthinesse, and superfluitie of maliciousnesse, and receiue with meekenes the word that is graffed in you, which is able to saue your soules. 22 And be ye doers of the word, and not hearers onely, deceiuing your owne selues. 23 For if any heare the woorde, and doe it not, he is like vnto a man, that beholdeth his naturall face in a glasse. 24 For when he hath considered himselfe, hee goeth his way, and forgetteth immediately what maner of one he was. 25 But who so looketh in the perfect Lawe of libertie, and continueth therein, hee not being a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the woorke, shalbe blessed in his deede. 26 If any man amog you seeme religious, and refraineth not his tongue, but deceiuethe his owne heart, this mans religion is vaine. 27 Pure religion and vndefiled before God, euen the Father, is this, to visite the fatherlesse, and widdowes in their aduersitie, and to keepe himselfe vsppotted of the world.

1 My brethren, haue not the faith of our glorious Lord Iesus Christ in respect of persons. 2 For if there come into your company a man with a golde ring, and in goodly apparell, and there come in also a poore man in vile raiment, 3 And ye haue a respect to him that weareth the gaie clothing; and say vnto him, Sit thou here in a goodly place, and say vnto the poore, Stand thou there,
or sit here under my footstool, 4 Are you not partial in your selves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? 5 Hearken my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world, that they should be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him? 6 But you have despised the poor. Do not the rich oppress you by tyranny, and do not they draw you before the judgment seats? 7 Do not they blaspheme the worthy Name after which you are named? 8 But if you fulfill the royal Law according to the Scripture, which saith, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thy self, you do well. 9 But if you regard the persons, you commit sin, and are rebuked of the Law, as transgressors. 10 For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet faileth in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For he that saith, Thou shalt not commit adultery, saith also, Thou shalt not kill. Now though you doest none adultery, yet if you kill, you are a transgressor of the Law. 12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the Law of liberty. 13 For there shall be condemnation merciless to him that sheweth not mercy, and mercy rejoiceth against condemnation. 14 What availeth it, my brethren, though a man saith he hath faith, when he hath no workes? can that faith save him? 15 For if a brother or a sister be naked and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace: warme your selves, and fill your bellies, notwithstanding ye giue them not those things which are needfull to the body, what helpeth it? 17 Even so the faith, if it have no workes, is dead in itself. 18 But some man might say, Thou hast the faith, and I have workes: shewe me thy faith out of thy workes, and I will shewe thee my faith by my workes. 19 Thou believest that there is one God: thou
doest well: the deuils also beleeeue it, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou vnderstand, O thou vaine man, that the faith which is without workes, is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father iustified through workes, when he ofred Isaac his sonne vpon the altar? 22 Seest thou not that the faith wrought with his workes? and through the workes was the faith made perfect. 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which sayeth, Abraham beleeeued God, and it was imputed vnto him for righteousnesse: and hee was called the friende of God. 24 Ye see then howe that of workes a man is iustified, and not of faith onely. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot iustified through workes, when she had receiued ye messengers, and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without ye spirit is dead, even so the faith without workes is dead.

3 1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receiue the greater condemnation. 2 For in many things we sinne all. If any man sinne not in word, he is a perfect man, and able to bridle all the body. 3 Beholde, we put bittes into the horses mouthes, that they should obey vs, and we turne about all their bodie. 4 Behold also the shippes, which though they be so great, and are driuen of fierce windes, yet are they turned about with a very small rudder, whither soeuer the gouernour listeth. 5 Euen so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth of great things: beholde, howe great a thing a little fire kindleth. 6 And the tongue is fire, yea, a worlde of wickednesse: so is the tongue set 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. 7 For the whole nature of beasts, and of birds, and of creeping things, and things of the sea is tamed, and hath bene tamed of the nature
of man. 8 But the tongue can no man tame. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith blesse we God euen the Father, and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of one mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing: my brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doeth a fountaine send forth at one place sweete water and bitter? 12 Can ye figge tree, my brethren, bring forth olives, either a vine figges? so can no fountaine make both salt water and sweete. 13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew by good conuersation his workes in meekenesse of wisdome. 14 But if ye haue bitter enuying and strife in your hearts, reioyce not, neither be liars against the trueth. 15 This wisedome descendeth not from aboue, but is earthly, sensuall, and deuilish. 16 For where enuying and strife is, there is sedition, and all maner of euill workes. 17 But the wisedome that is from aboue, is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easie to be intreated, full of mercie and good fruiteres, without judging, and without hipocrisie. 18 And the fruite of righteousnesse is sowen in peace, of them that make peace.

4

1 From whence are warres and contentions among you? are they not hence, euen of your pleasures, that fight in your members? 2 Ye lust, and haue not: ye enuie, and desire immoderately, and cannot obtaine: ye fight and warre, and get nothing, because ye aske not. 3 Ye aske, and receiue not, because ye aske amisse, that ye might lay the same out on your pleasures. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, knowe ye not that the amitie of the world is the enimitie of God? Whosoeuer therefore will be a friend of the world, maketh himselfe the enemie of God. 5 Doe ye thinke that the Scripture sayeth in vaine, The spirit that
dwelleth in vs, lusteth after enuie? 6 But the Scripture offereth more grace, and therefore sayth, God resisteth the proude, and giueth grace to the humble. 7 Submit your selues to God: resist the deuill, and he will flee from you. 8 Drawe neere to God, and he will drawe neere to you. Clense your handes, ye sinners, and purge your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Suffer afflictions, and sorrowe ye, and weepe: let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your ioy into heauinesse. 10 Cast downe your selues before the Lord, and he will lift you vp. 11 Speake not euill one of another, brethren. He that speaketh euill of his brother, or he that condemneth his brother, speaketh euill of ye Law, and condemneth the Lawe: and if thou condemnest the Lawe, thou art not an observer of the Lawe, but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiuer, which is able to saue, and to destroy. Who art thou that judgest another man? 13 Goe to now ye that say, To day or to morowe we will goe into such a citie, and continue there a yeere, and bye and sell, and get gaine, (And yet ye cannot tell what shalbe to morowe. For what is your life? It is euen a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and afterward vanisheth away) 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, and, if we liue, we will doe this or that. 16 But now ye rejoicye in your boastings: all such rejoicing is euill. 17 Therefore, to him that knoweth how to doe well, and doeth it not, to him it is sinne.

5

1 Goe to nowe, ye rich men: weepe, and howle for your miseries that shall come vpon you. 2 Your riches are corrupt, and your garments are moth eaten. 3 Your gold and siluer is cankred, and the rust of them shalbe a witnesse against you, and shall eate your flesh, as it were fire. Ye haue heaped vp treasure for the last dayes.
Behold, the hire of ye labourers, which haue reaped your fieldes (which is of you kept backe by fraude) cryeth, and the cries of them which haue reaped, are entred into the eares of the Lord of hostes. Ye haue liued in pleasure on the earth, and in wantonnes. Ye haue nourished your heartes, as in a day of slaughter. Ye haue condemned and haue killed the iust, and he hath not resisted you. Be patient therefore, brethren, vnto the comming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman wayteth for the precious fruite of the earth, and hath long patience for it, vntill he receiue the former, and the latter rayne. Be ye also patient therefore and settle your hearts: for ye comming of the Lord draweth neere. Grudge not one against another, brethren, least ye be condemned: behold, the iudge standeth before the doore. Take, my brethren, the Prophets for an ensample of suffering aduersitie, and of long patience, which haue spoken in the Name of the Lord. Beholde, we count them blessed which endure. Ye haue heard of the patience of Iob, and haue known what ende the Lord made. For the Lord is very pitifull and mercifull. But before all thinges, my brethren, sweare not, neither by heauen, nor by earth, nor by any other othe: but let your yea, be yea, and your nay, nay, lest ye fall into condemnation. Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merie? Let him sing. Is any sicke among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church, and let them pray for him, and anoynt him with oyle in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall saue the sicke, and the Lord shall raise him vp: and if he haue committed sinnes, they shalbe forgien him. Acknowledge your faultes one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed: for the prayer of a righteous man auailleth much, if it be feruent. Helias
James 5:18

was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rayne, and it rayned not on the earth for three yeeres and sixe moneths. 18 And he prayed againe, and the heauen gaue rayne, and the earth brought forth her fruite. 19 Brethren, if any of you hath erred from the trueth, and some man hath conuerted him, 20 Let him know that he which hath conuerted the sinner from going astray out of his way, shall saue a soule from death, and shall hide a multitude of sinnes.