



THE LIFE-GIVING GOD

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Outline to the Book of James

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
James 1:12 ESV

Basic Christian Principles (1:2 – 27)	Distinctive Christian characteristics (2:1 – 5:6)
1:2 – 12 The life-giving trial 1:13 – 18 The life-giving God 1:19 – 27 The life-giving Word	2:1 – 16 Concern of the needy 3:1 – 18 Words and Wisdom 4:1 – 5:6 Christian constancy <u>Conclusion: abiding Christian concerns (5:7 – 20)</u> Marked by perseverance (v 7 – 12) Marked by prayer (v 13 – 18) Mutual concern for one another (v 19 – 20)

James 1:13-18 ESV

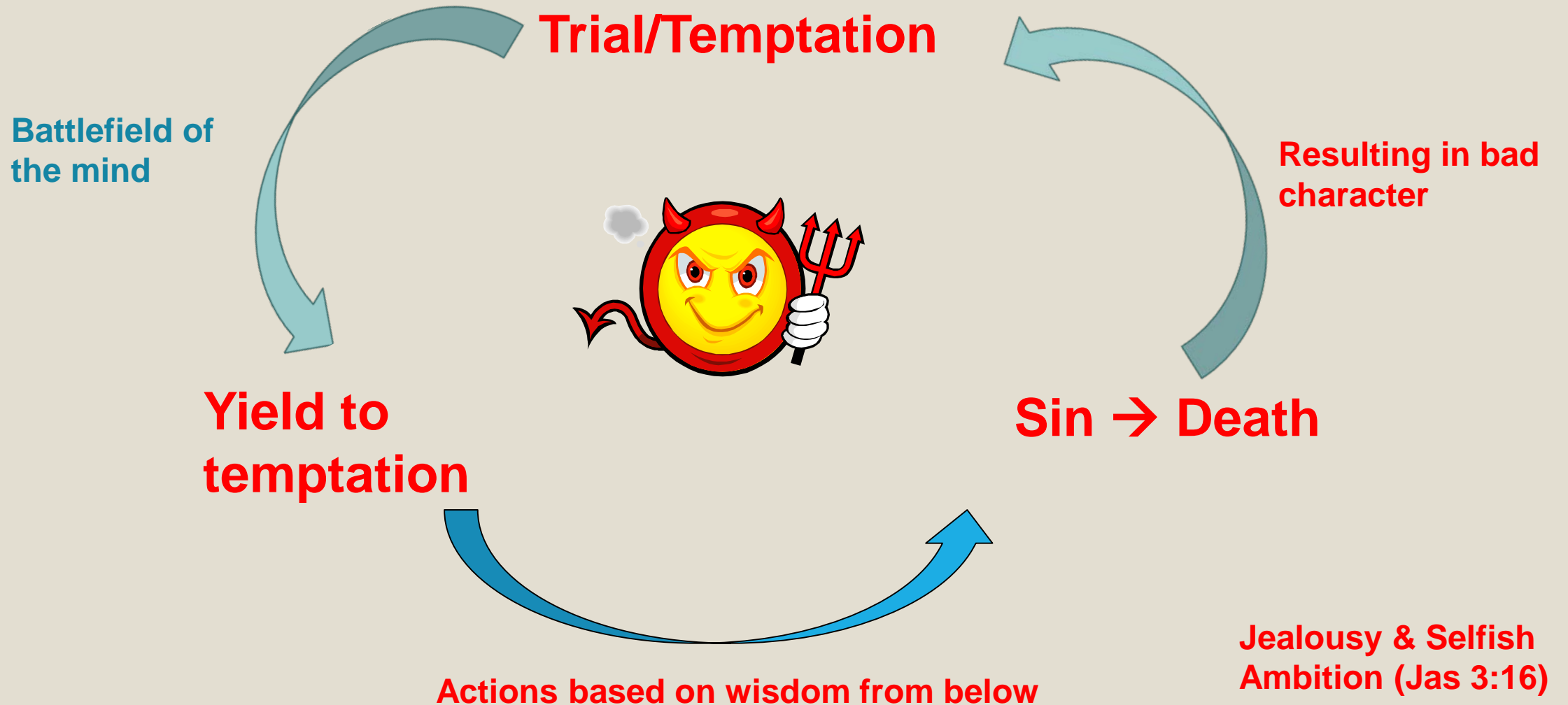
¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

We reap what we sow

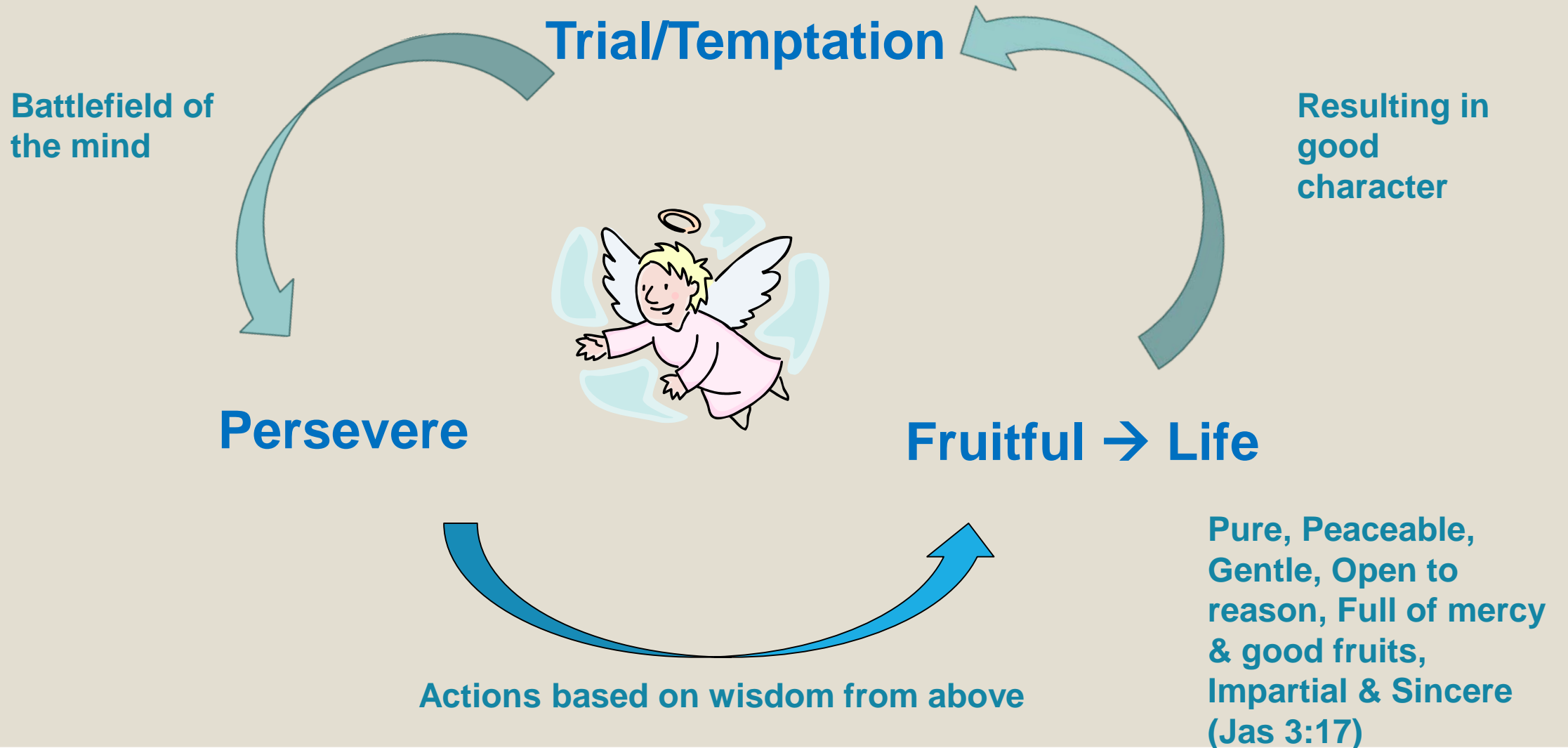
“Sow a thought, reap an act
Sow an act, reap a habit
Sow a habit, reap a character
Sow a character, reap a destiny”

[Emerson, Ralph Waldo](#)

Vicious Circle



Virtuous Circle



Do not be deceived!

- Do not be **deceived**, my beloved brothers (v 16) – regarding the source of evil
- But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving** yourselves (v 22) – not obeying the Word of God
- If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but **deceives** his heart, this person's religion is worthless (v 26) – words & actions don't match

Contrast between God & Satan

God	Satan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot be tempted by evil and tempts no one (Jas 1:13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tempts people to sin including Jesus (Mt 4:1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brings new life (Jn 10:10b; Jas 1:18)• Gives good & perfect gift (Jas 1:17a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brings death (Jas 1:15b)• Comes to steal, kill and destroy (Jn 10:10a)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Father of lights (Jas 1:17b)• No variation or shadow due to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Father of lies (Jn 8:44)• Twists and turns what was said

1. God of the 'How much more'

Every **good gift** and every **perfect gift** is from above ... Jas 1:17a ESV

Good (agathos)	Perfect (teleois)	Gift (dosis) Gift (dorema)
Inherently virtuous which produces benefit and genuinely good results	Complete, of a high standard or fully developed; similar to v 4	Dosis: act of giving Dorema: the thing given; a free gift

1. God of the 'How much more'

Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give **good** gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give **good** things to those who ask him!

Matt 7:9-11 ESV

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us Eph 3:20 ESV

1. God of the 'How much more'

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Lk 11:13b ESV

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Rom 8:32 ESV

2. God who is Unchanging

... coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Jas 1:17b ESV

- God dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see (1 Tim 6:16)
- Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness." 1 Kgs 8:12 ESV
- "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me." Dt 5:22 ESV

2. God who is Unchanging

“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.” Mal 3:6-7 ESV

- God’s character is constant: merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (Ps 103:8,10)
- God longs for us to be with Him forever

2. God who is Unchanging

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Heb 13:8 ESV

- God's moral attributes remain the same:
 - Sexual purity – let the marriage bed be held in honor (Heb 13:4)
 - Contentment – keep your life free from the love of money (Heb 13:5a)
 - No other gods - do not be led astray by diverse & strange teachings (Heb 13:9)
- God who will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5b)

3. God who wills mankind to be His children

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Jas 1:18 ESV

Firstfruits

- Offering given by the Israelites at the beginning of the harvest; God expects the best and not from the scraps or leftovers at the end.
- Israel acknowledged the harvest was provided by God and expressed faith that the rest of the harvest would follow.
- The nation of Israel is designed to be the firstfruits of human beings belonging to God; likewise the Christians in the early days of the church

3. God who wills mankind to be His children

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Jn 1:12-13 ESV

- God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4)
- This is entirely a divine act where no human element is involved
- Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust (1 Pet 3:18)

3. God who wills mankind to be His children



Taken from The Witness musical by Jimmy & Carol Owens

Who is this who has life to give?
Who is this who tells the dead to live?
Not an ordinary man with some words of
truth to say,
Has his moment in the sun and one day
fades away!

Who is this who has life to give?
Who is this who tells the dead to live?
Not an ordinary man but one who dares to
say
That He is the Resurrection and the Life
And then offers it to you and me.

Come to the Life Giver!
Come to the Life Giver!
And let Him pour His life on you!
Let Him pour His life on you!
Let Him pour His life on you!

Come to the Life Giver!
Jesus the Life Giver!
And let Him pour His life on you!
Let Him pour His life on you!
Let Him pour His life on you!

The Life-giving God

1. God of the 'How much more'
2. God who is Unchanging
3. God who wills all mankind to be His children