

## SUMMARY OF SERMON AT FBC ON SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT EVENING WORSHIP

The message was the first in a series of five on the five chapters of the book of James.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Before the sermon by Marlon Govender, Debbie and Susie Radloff, of the Assemblies of God in Grahamstown, performed an own composition entitled LIFE, inspired by Philippians 3: 12-14. It was gospel at its best and we are truly grateful to have heard them. This is a part of the refrain:

I surrender this life  
To your purpose and plan  
So I can bring  
I can bring glory to your name.

### INTRODUCTION

The New Testament book of James was probably written by the half-brother of Jesus, known as James (Hebrew Jacob) who at one time in his life considered Jesus to be insane! Something changed in his thinking and he came to be a follower of Christ and produced the book of James. Marlon's sermon covered the first chapter of his book.

### CORE SCRIPTURE

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.  
James 1:12

### CONTEXT OF SERMON

James wrote to Jewish Christians. He was one of them, a recent convert from a life steeped in legalism and ritual. His punchy, powerful letter contains more than 51 imperatives ("must dos"). He addressed Christians amongst the 12 tribes living with pagans and subject to persecution but amongst whom there was also infighting and sharp speaking and a huge sense of materialism. Whilst they had accepted Jesus and were washed of their sins, they were spiritually immature. Marlon reminded us that "not everyone who grows old, grows up".

## OUTLINE OF SERMON

### Trials

The four imperatives for coping with trials:

- a joyful attitude: outlook determines outcome;
- an understanding mind;
- a surrendered life; and
- a believing heart.

### Temptations

What are the ways to overcome temptation?

- Consider God's judgment: when our desires drag us away from fulfilling God's purpose and plan, we are enticed to commit sin. Satan knows our desires and uses deception to conceal the consequences from us of sin. Our will (intellect) must be exercised to allow us to avoid sin. Disobedience leads to death.
- Consider God's goodness: "..... God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone" (v. 13) Every good and perfect gift comes from God who gives joyously, abundantly and constantly.
- Consider the divine, gracious nature of God within us, provided through his word by way of the finest possible birth in Christ.

### Truth

There are 3 practices to follow to be true before God and man and to stop deceiving ourselves:

- Receive the Word
  - Be swift to hear;
  - Slow to speak;
  - Slow to anger; and
  - Have a prepared heart, confessing your sins, meditating regularly and adopting an attitude of meekness.
- Practice the Word
  - Examination – of thoughts and deeds and make adjustments
  - Restoration
  - Transformation
- Share the Word  
By way of
  - Speech
  - Service
  - Separation: we are in this world but not of this world.