

Inside Terry's Office	1
Camz Counsel	2
Autumn Reflections	3
Winter Class Offerings	4
Book Sales	5

October 2018

# JAMES

*Inside Terry's Office:*

*The Book of James; Practicing Religion*

ESTABLISHING A PLUMBLINE IN THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

# The Plumbline

Martin Luther taught that the book of James should not have been included in scripture because it was too legalistic; and at times, seemed to promote works, righteousness, and performance-based discipline.

Personally, I think the same can be said of all the letters that Paul wrote to individuals; Timothy, Titus, and now, James. In his letters to the **churches** Paul is determined to set forth correct doctrine and counter the legalists; known as 'Judaizers' and 'Circumcizers'. In his letters to **individuals** he discusses the leadership they bring to their religious movement. Paul recognized the needs of the institution, but never valued them over the purity of the gospel. ... And, in this dynamic, we see ourselves!

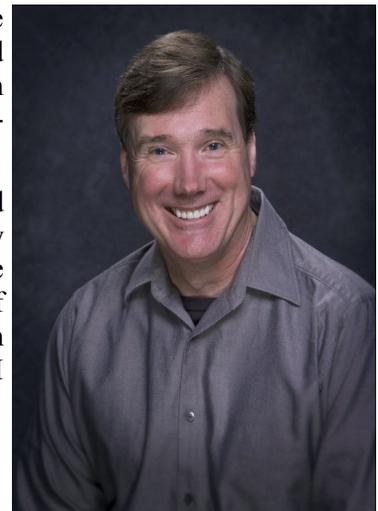
When you and I commit to another person in marriage, parenting, church, business, government, etc., we begin thinking in terms of what we need from each other. In short, we need other people to do their part! It's true! In order to be joined with you in any relationship, I need you to do your part. BUT ... how do we decide what each other's part is? Marriage is more than being sexually faithful, and parenting is more than provision and teaching.

In the book of James, Paul insists on clarifying religion's **purpose** ("to look after the orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world") and its **limits** ("Mercy triumphs over judgement") before he begins discussing "faith without deeds" and "controlling your tongue", and other religious principles. And, again, we see ourselves! Like Paul, we must order our priorities and values. Even though our corporate activities force us to monitor and manage what we expect from each other, our greater unity and power is not found in those expectations but in our individual relationships with God the Father, through Jesus, and manifest in each of our dependence upon the Holy Spirit within us.

The bottom line is this: The principles that help us perform well in our marriages, families, churches, and community must never be legalistically promoted or monitored or valued as highly as our personal freedoms and identity in Christ Jesus. As tempting as it is to measure ourselves and others by our abilities (or lack thereof) to perform well in our corporate agreements, we must not give ourselves over to such legalism and performance-based acceptance. At some level, we must get comfortable allowing ourselves to struggle with our healthy expectations of ourselves, and with each other, and place our constant dependence on Jesus as our highest value. Religion must never be given a value equal to or greater than our personal relationships with Jesus.

In our counseling offices we are committed to never being satisfied with 'solution-based therapy' or teaching our 'tools'. Our first priority is always to promote an awareness and acceptance of the unique workings of the souls of our counselees. We embrace a privilege of moving beyond our counselee's willingness and/or ability to perform into a deeper openness to the work of the Holy Spirit within them. ... I really think Paul is telling James the same!

In His Grip, TWE





## CAMZ COUNSEL

October 2018

### JAMES: DON'T RUN

James 1:2-5 (The Voice), “**Don’t run from tests and hardships**, brothers and sisters. *As a difficult as they are, you will ultimately find joy in them*; if you embrace them, your faith will blossom under pressure and *teach you true patience* as you endure. *And true patience brought on by endurance* will equip you to complete the long journey *and cross the finish line*—mature, complete, and wanting nothing. If you don’t have all the wisdom needed for this journey, then all you have to do is ask God for it; and God will grant all that you need. He gives lavishly and never scolds you for asking.”

In the book of Hebrews Paul encouraged spiritual maturity through the analogy of moving from drinking milk alone to eating solid food. In James we learn more about what the expectations are of eating the solid food and what it means to not “shrink back” into simply drinking milk. James encourages us right away to not run when life gets hard. But if we embrace the hardships, James says,

Your faith will blossom

You will learn true patience

You will be equipped:

To complete the journey

And cross the finish line—mature, complete, and wanting nothing.

And what wisdom you lack, You can ASK GOD and He will give you all you need!

(And he never scolds you for asking!)

From 66 Love Letters, Crabb relates this statement of what he believes is God’s message to us in the fifty-ninth letter of James,

“I saved your soul from eternal separation from Me when you placed your faith in My Son. Now **save your soul from a wasted life** by listening to Me, by using your tongue to celebrate Me and advance My plan, and by expressing anger only when whatever offends you is offensive to Me. In so doing, **you will save your soul from missing out on the unique joy of reigning with My Son** in the glory of His well-deserved leadership, of taking part in leading the dance.”

I think one of the most rewarding experiences I have as a pastoral counselor is when I get to see a counselee come out on the other side of a hardship or even be in the middle of hardship and report that they have tasted and seen that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8.) They see his goodness not because the hardship went away but because they experienced his sustaining grace and the joy of experiencing God in the midst of the pain.

I have seen someone go through unimaginable loss and out of the loss turn her sorrow into ministry (James 4:8, “Come near to God and He will come near to you.”) I have watched multiple people humble themselves to admit and embrace their weakness and enlist in recovery groups and some become leaders in those recovery groups (James 4:10, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”) I have had some who remain in broken marriages knowing the only way they can stay is through the power of the Holy Spirit (“James 1:4, Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”) AND I have seen some face some hard truths about themselves and make fresh commitments (James 5:16, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”)



Don’t run, there’s joy to be discovered! **CAROL ANNE**

*Autumn is a good time to focus on God's many blessings given us. Blessings of family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His word, and eternal life still to come.*



### **The Unchanging Nature of God**

The seasons come and go, so focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. "LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" ([Psalm 90:1-2](#)).

There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children. There are personal changes—children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work. But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God. Remember this verse from "[Abide with Me](#)"? His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

### **The Divine Foresight of God**

We've all suffered setbacks along the way. But God promised, "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten. . . . You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God" ([Joel 2:25-26](#)). His divine forethought knew it all in advance, and He can be trusted with what has happened to us in years past.

Our omniscient Savior knows the end from the beginning, and He will bless whatever is yielded to Him. Focus on His foreknowledge, providence, and sovereignty.

### **The Wonderful Blessings of God**

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings—family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come. During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

### **A Renewed Commitment to God**

Autumn is a good time to focus on your commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in [Jeremiah 8:20](#), "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." If you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time.



# WINTER CLASSES

If you are tired of getting the same results and are looking for a change,  
then come learn a new way!

**PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES, INC.** has new classes beginning in January 2019.

## **SOUL CARE—Unit 2—Emotional Freedom**

Begins January 10 through April 4, 2019

In this unit of study we will dedicate ourselves to finding freedom in the expression of emotion, the ownership of emotion, and the freedom that comes from the God-given response to emotionally charged situations.

Plumblineline now offers Soul Care classes On-Site, as Video on Demand, and in Satellite Groups.

Check out below which options are best for you.

**On-Site:** With the on-site experience you will get the opportunity to interact in a small group setting with Terry and your classmates. The ability to ask questions and to process information together is very beneficial. You will also enjoy the experience of the student led presentations during several of the units. Book discussions are also included in the on-site classes. The class meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. Cost: \$250.00 per unit.

**Video-On-Demand:** If time and/or distance is an issue to you being able to take Soul Care on site, you can now enjoy the same teaching at your own pace, at a time of your choice, and at any location! Plumblineline now offers the entire 6 semesters to be viewed as “on demand”. Cost: \$100.00 per unit.

**Satellite Groups:** Satellite groups are now forming to help facilitate Soul Care classes. We currently have a group that meets in Owasso and are looking for others that would be willing to form new groups. If you are a Soul Care alumni,, we are offering special incentives to you, if you would like to host a new satellite group in your area! Cost: Please contact the office.

Plumblineline offers three additional classes which will begin again in January 2019 are open to the public. Our “**Codependency**”, **Boundaries**,” and “**Safe People** “ classes help give practical help to those who might be struggling with these issues or know someone who is. Each class is a 10 week course that meets once a week. Each class is offered two or three times per year, so if you missed the last one, check back often for when it will start again! **Watch for specific details in our November and December Newsletters!**

# Stickman's Prayers

Plumblin's newest book, *Stickman's Prayers* has been published and is now available at Plumblin!

## stickman's prayers

the everyday practice of  
"loosing prayers"  
and the ministry of  
"exploratory prayers"



Michelle Carpenter  
Terry Ewing  
Erin Garcia  
Margo Hanne  
Carolyn Knippers  
Carol McNamarra  
Sue Merrill

Would you be surprised to know that the "Prayer of Jabez" was a joke?

Would you be happy to know what kind of prayers are appropriate for you to pray for yourself and what kinds are meant for you to pray for others and others for you?

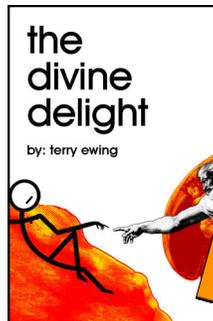
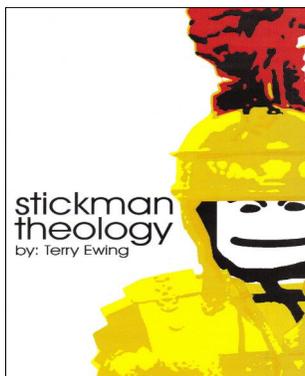
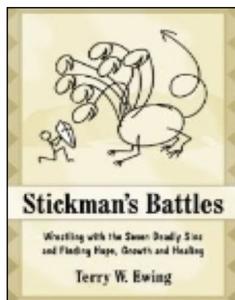
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

Praying is the most natural thing in the world for Christians; an on going conversation with our best friend, counselor, and confidant; gratitude to our Savior and provider; intercession on behalf of our friends; requests to our Creator. In this regard, a book on prayer may seem presumptuous. When you write a book on Prayer aren't you suggesting that some are praying wrongly, or, at least could be praying better?

That really is not the kind of message we look to promote. So...why the book?

The *Stickman's Prayers* serves two purposes. First, to challenge some ideas that other teaching and preaching concerning prayer has promoted. And, to offer simple encouragements to personal prayer and prayer ministries.

Available at Plumblin for a suggested donation of \$10.00 each



*Did you know you can download*

## Stickman Theology

**On your KINDLE?**

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, you could be helping to financially support Plumblin? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumblin.** All you need to do is go to [smiles.amazon.com](https://smiles.amazon.com), designate Plumblin Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumblin. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

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