



Today's Sermons

Morning: The Most Valuable Discovery

Evening: Song Service

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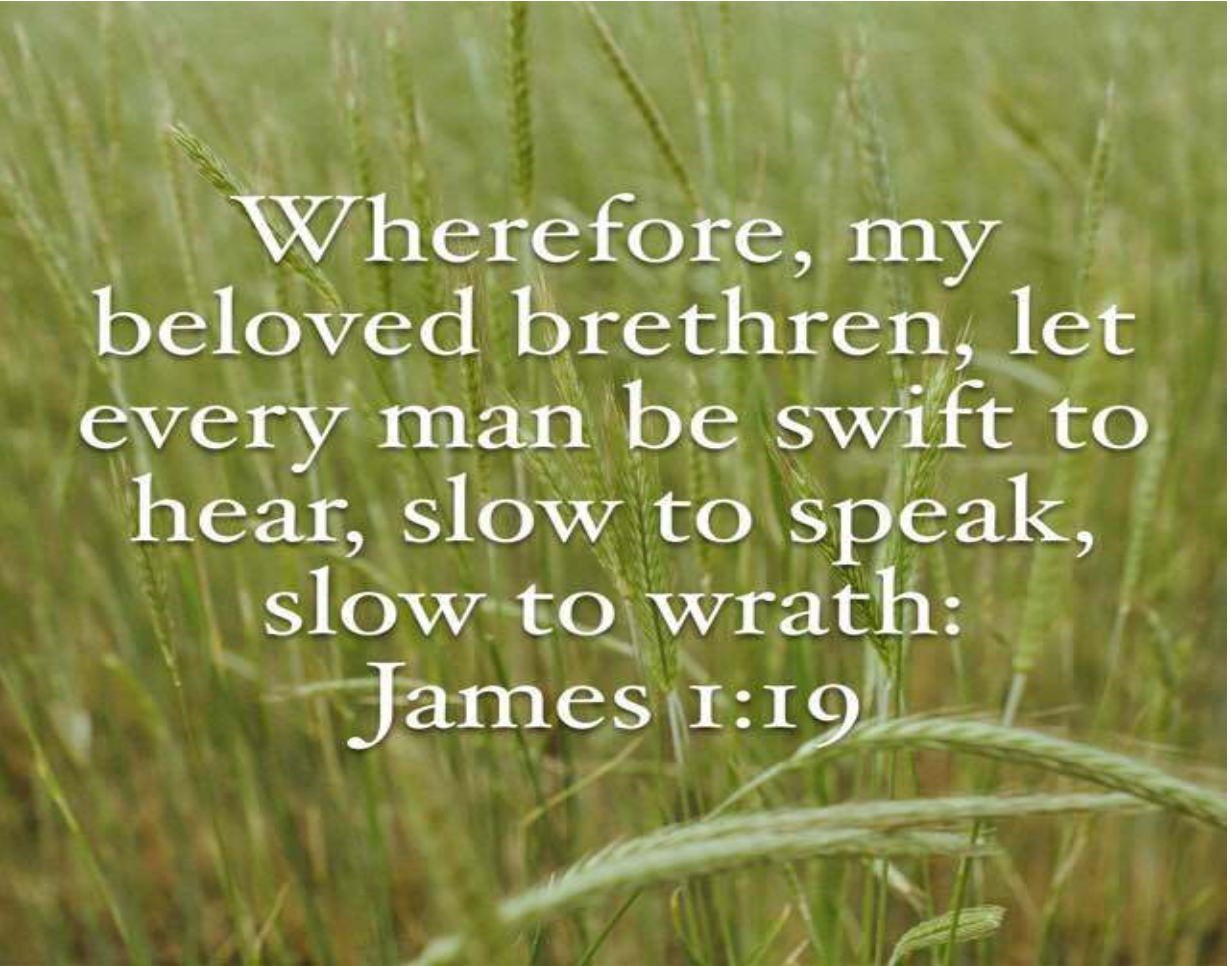
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James 1:19



Minister:

Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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Volume X April 30, 2017 Number 18

THE ONLY AUTHORITY IN RELIGION
Roger D. Campbell

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Other religious people of our time depend on or follow their feelings. A number of years ago the catchy words of a popular song were, "It can’t be wrong when it feels so right." Is that true in our religious practices? Are our feelings a safe guide to follow? The apostle Paul, before he became a Christian, persecuted the disciples of Jesus (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1,2). Why would he do such a thing? Many years after his conversion to God’s Son, Paul gave this explanation about his pre-Christian activities: "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 26:9). Why did Paul make havoc of God’s church? Because he was convinced that that was the right thing to do! He had strong convictions, and he zealously acted on those strong feelings. But, was the Lord pleased to see Paul trying to destroy Christianity? Of course not. This example plainly shows that a religious person can take action that is based on his/her feelings, yet that action can be displeasing to the Lord. The lesson? Our feelings are not a safe guide to follow in matters of religion.

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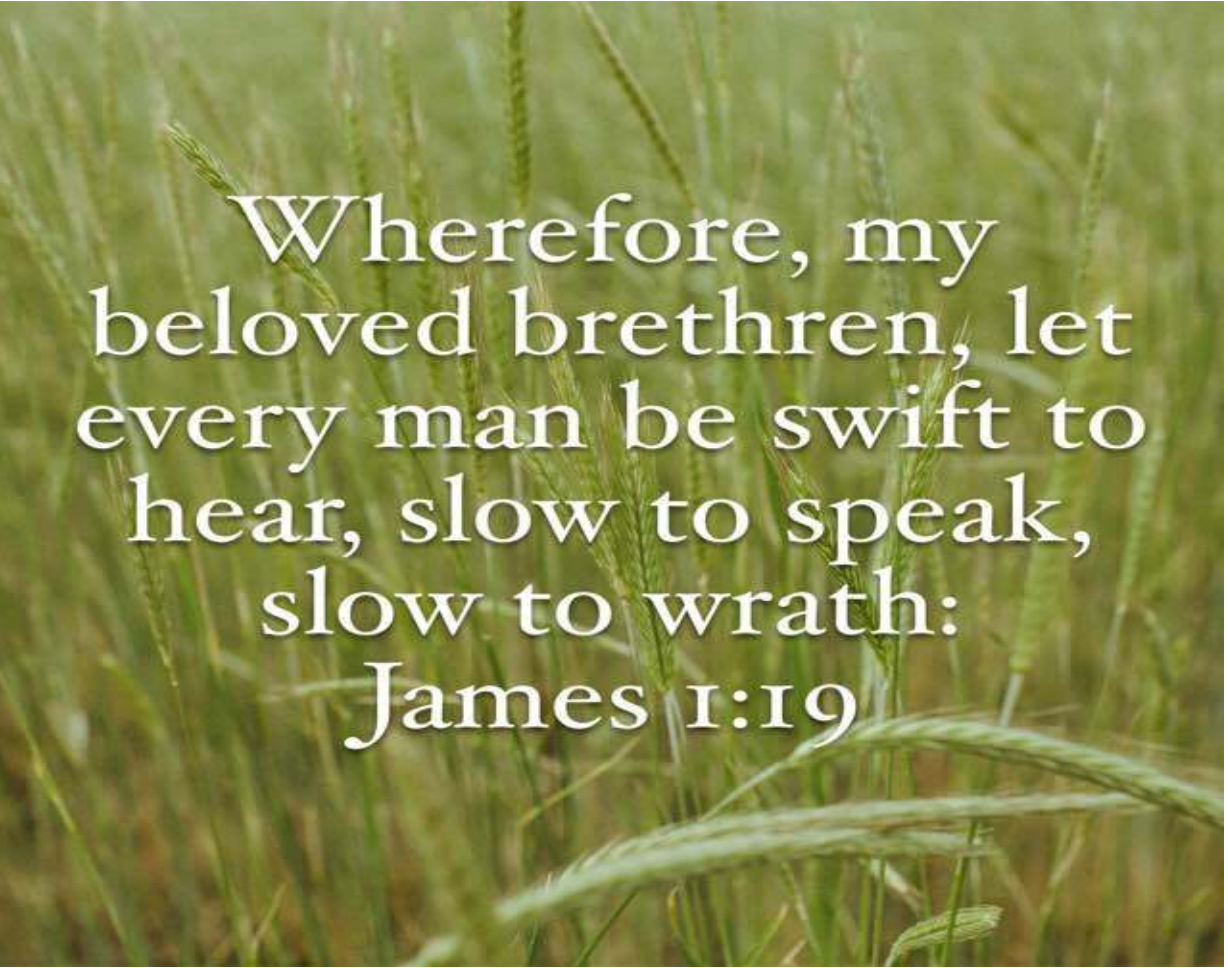


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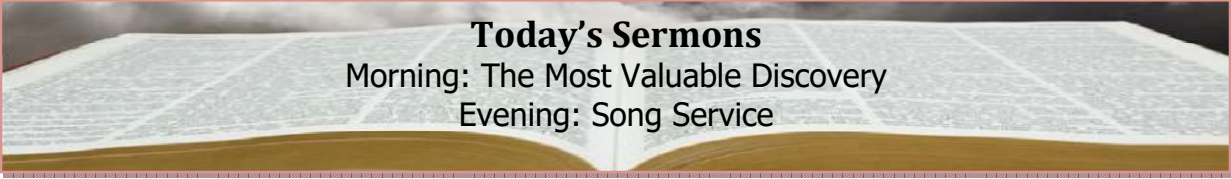
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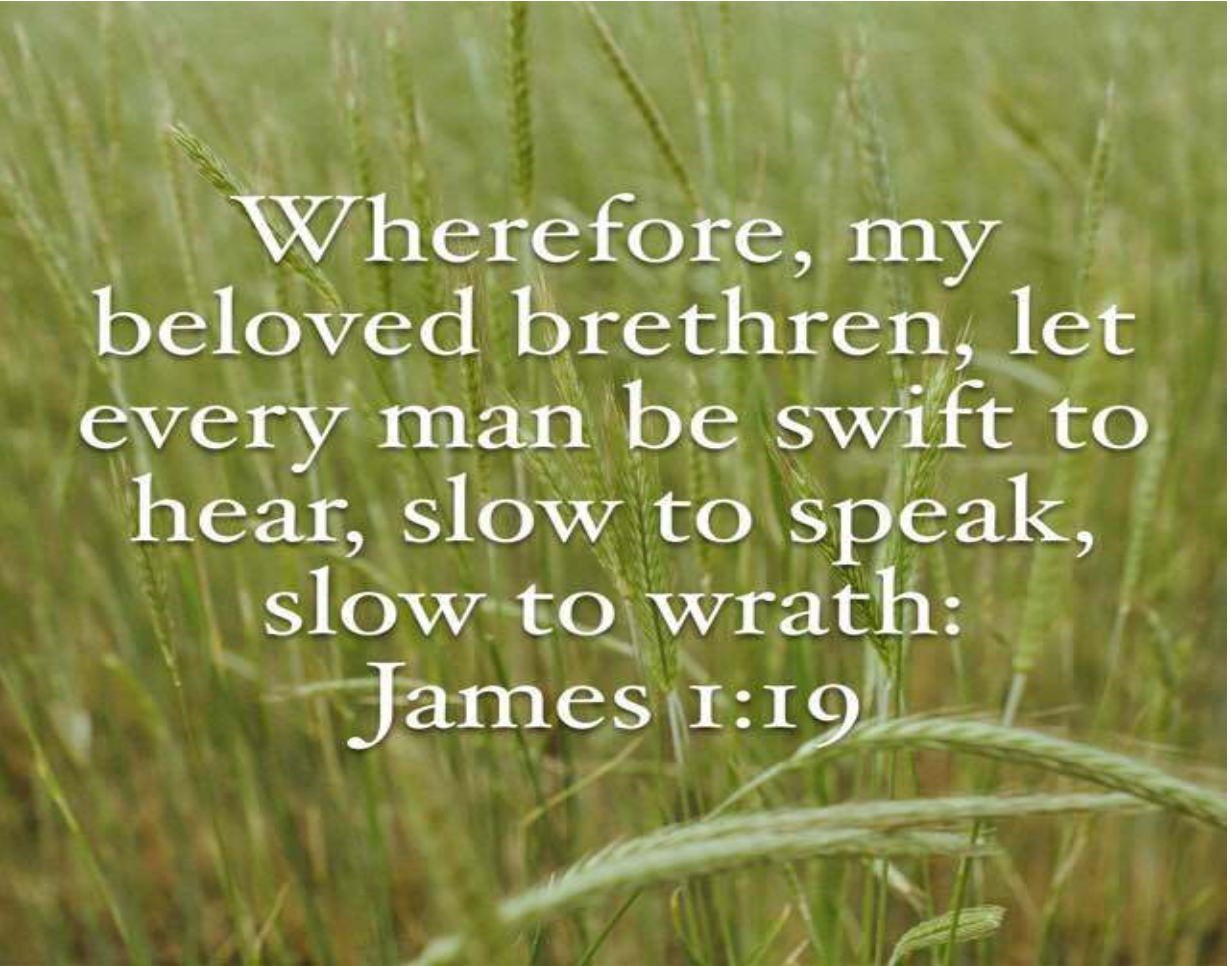


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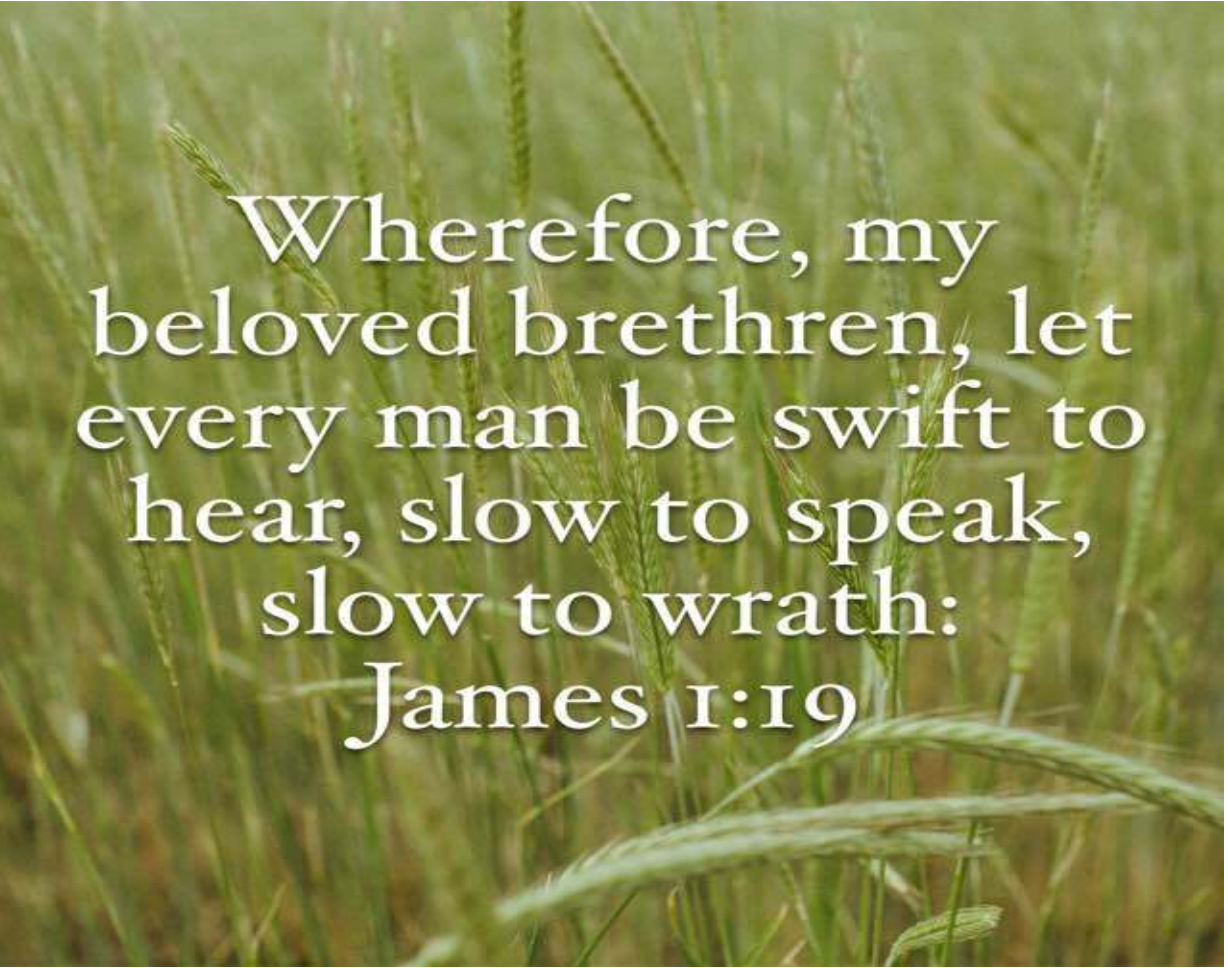


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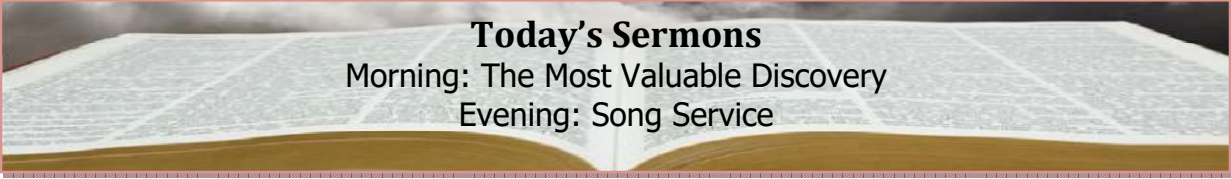
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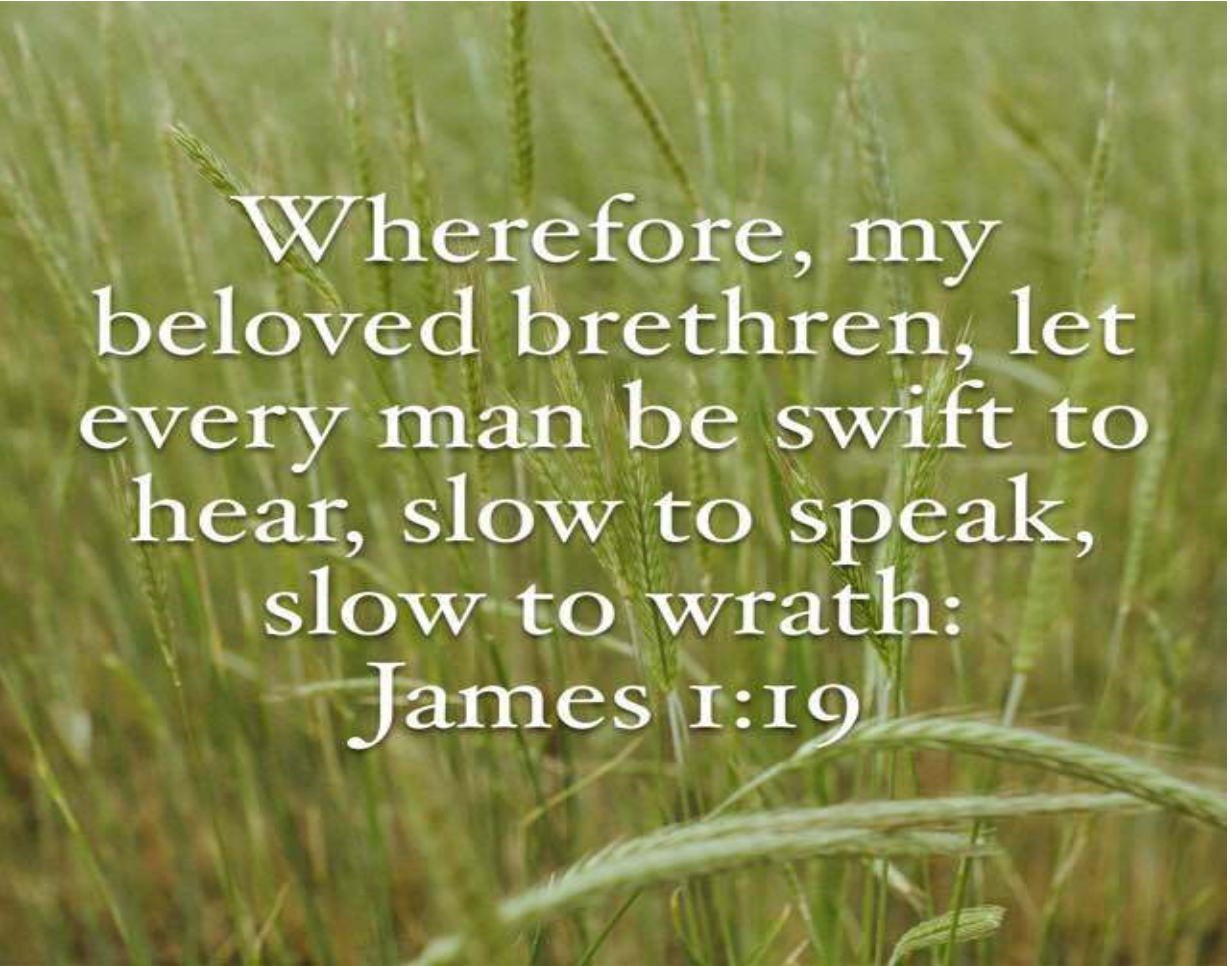


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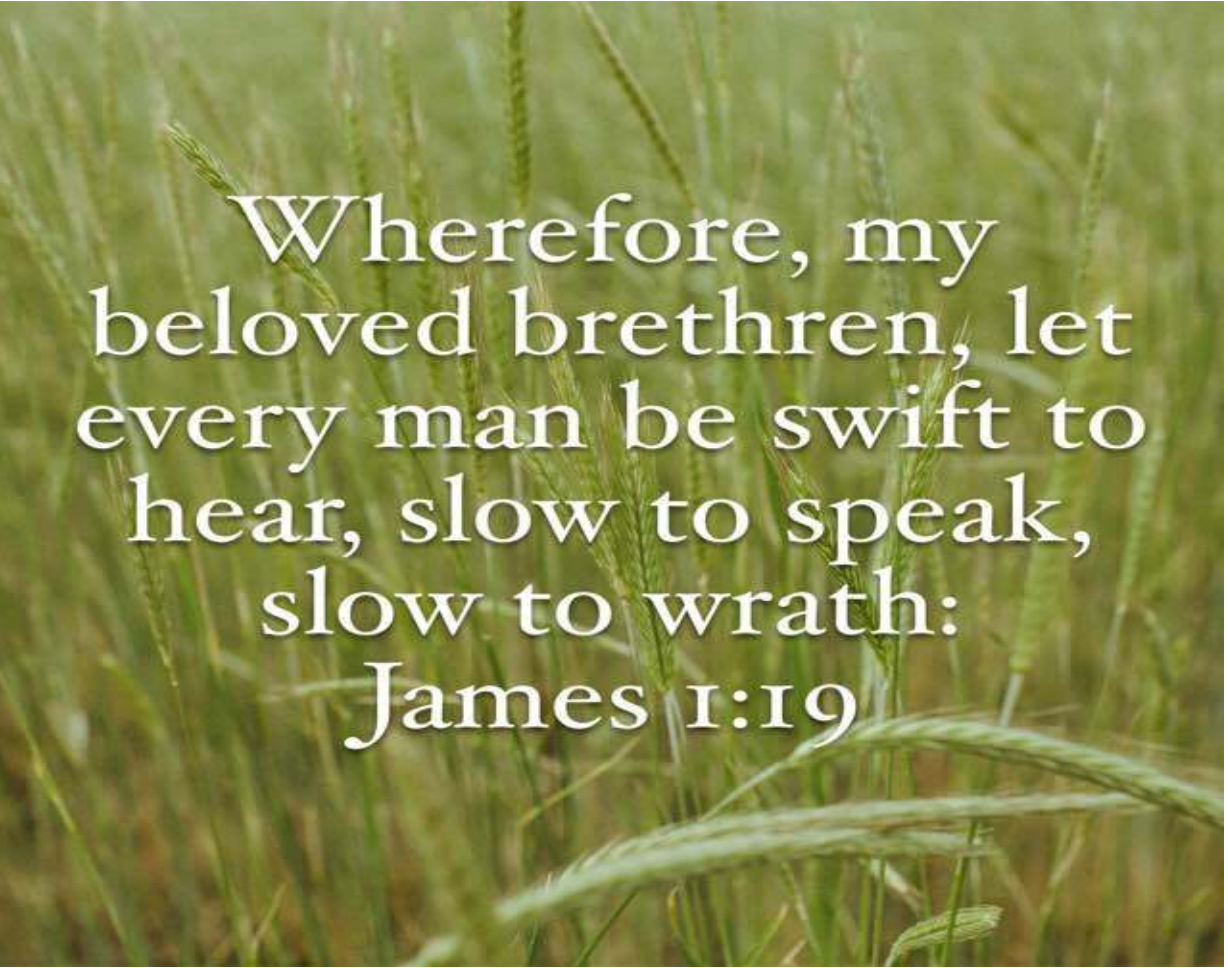


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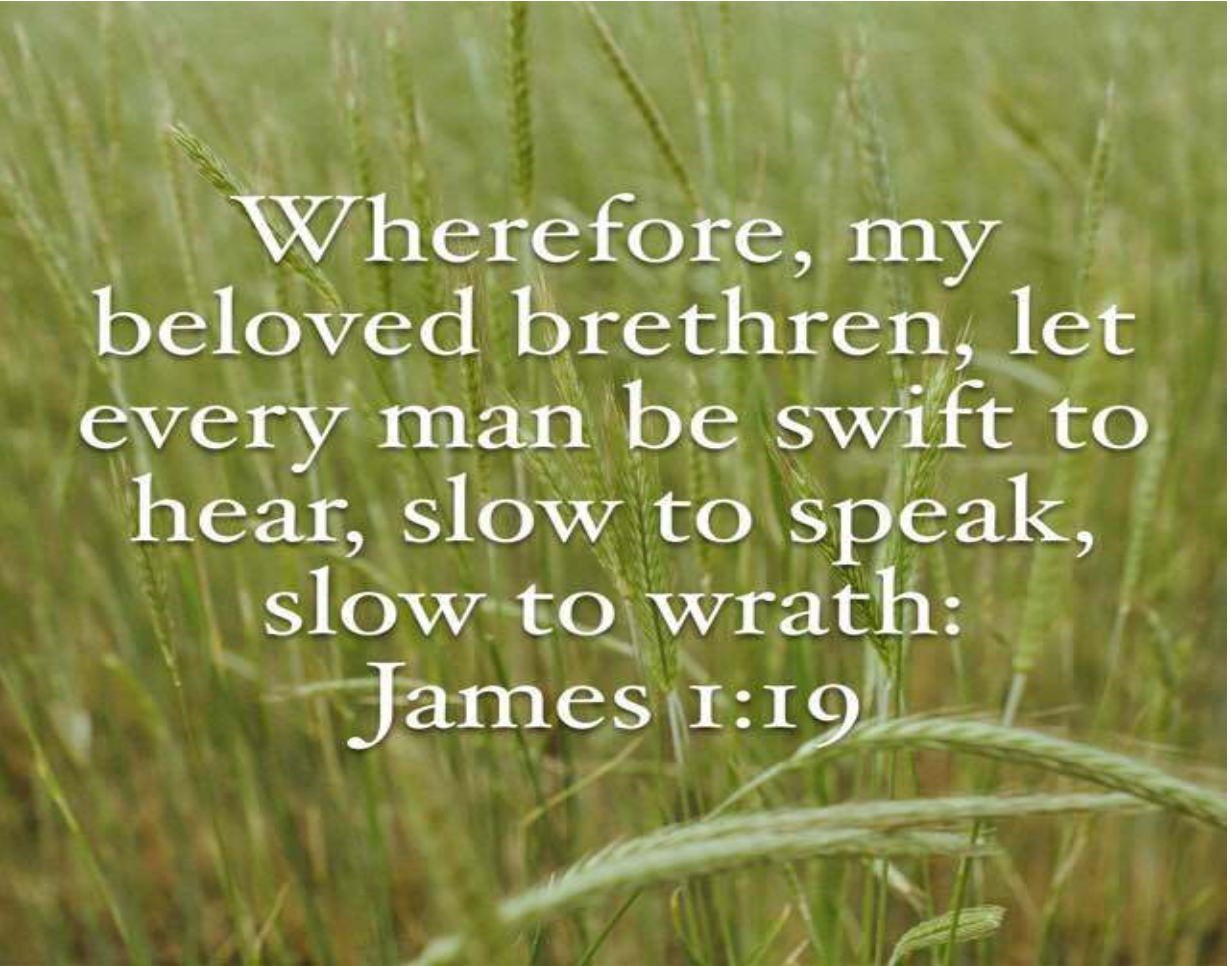


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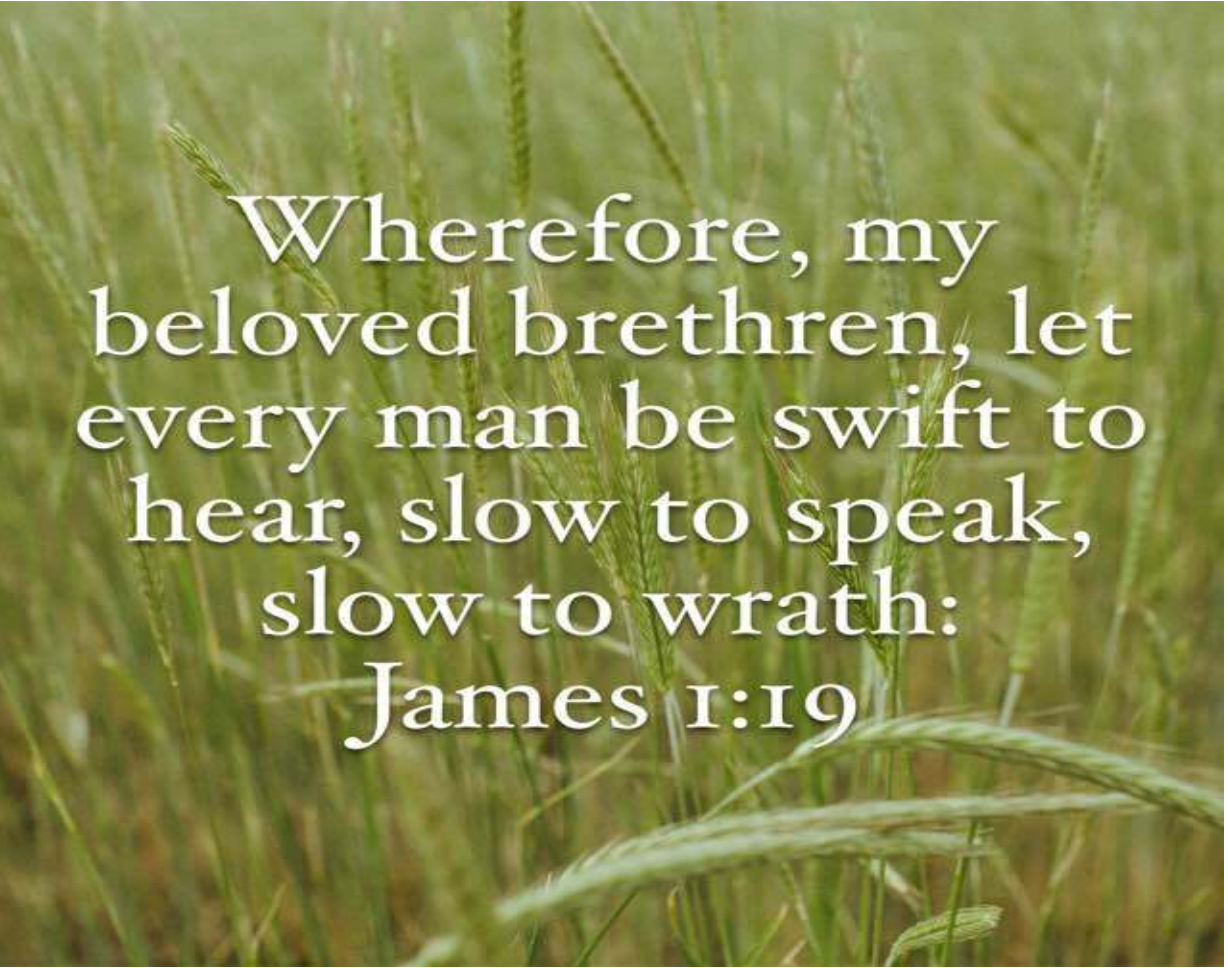


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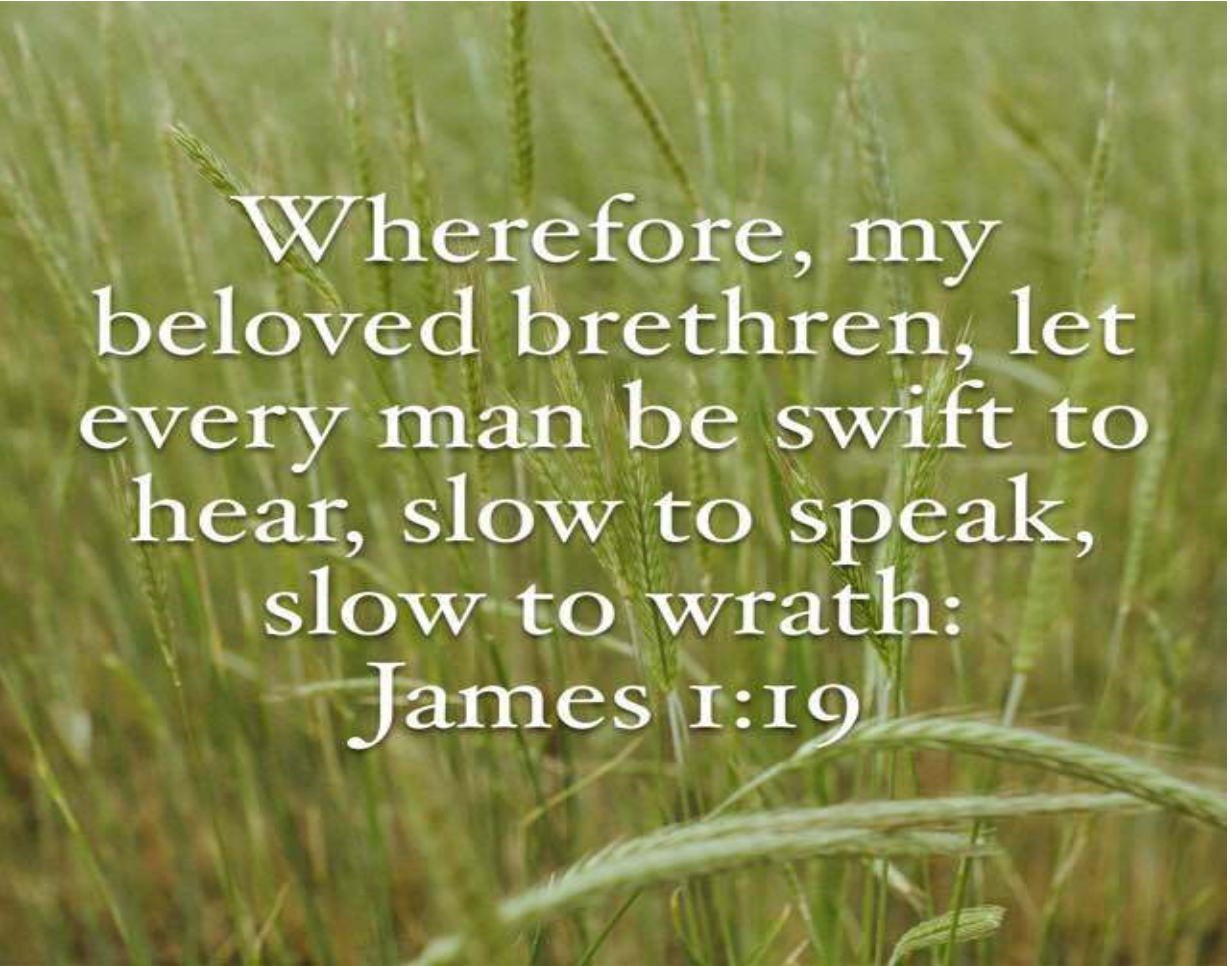


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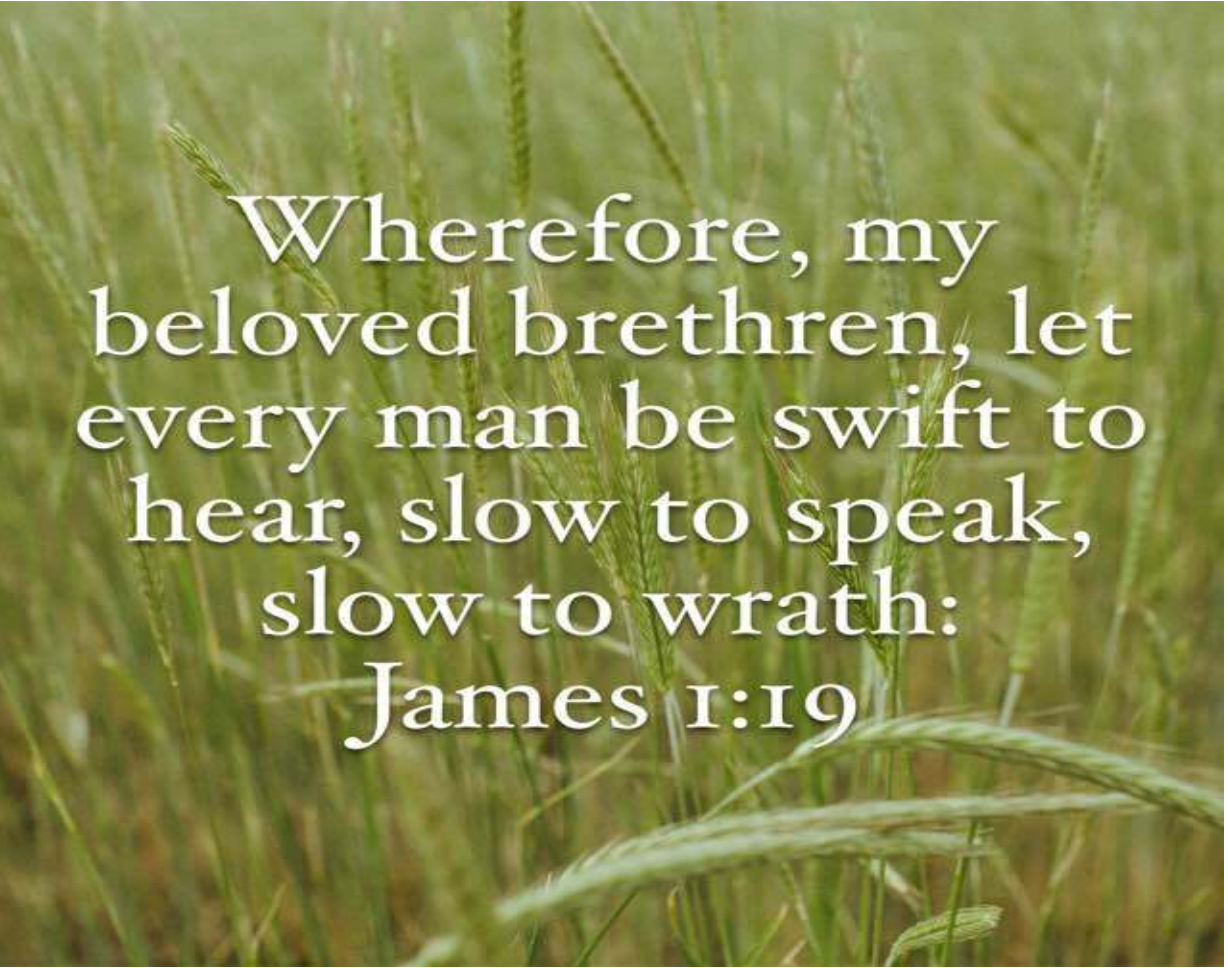


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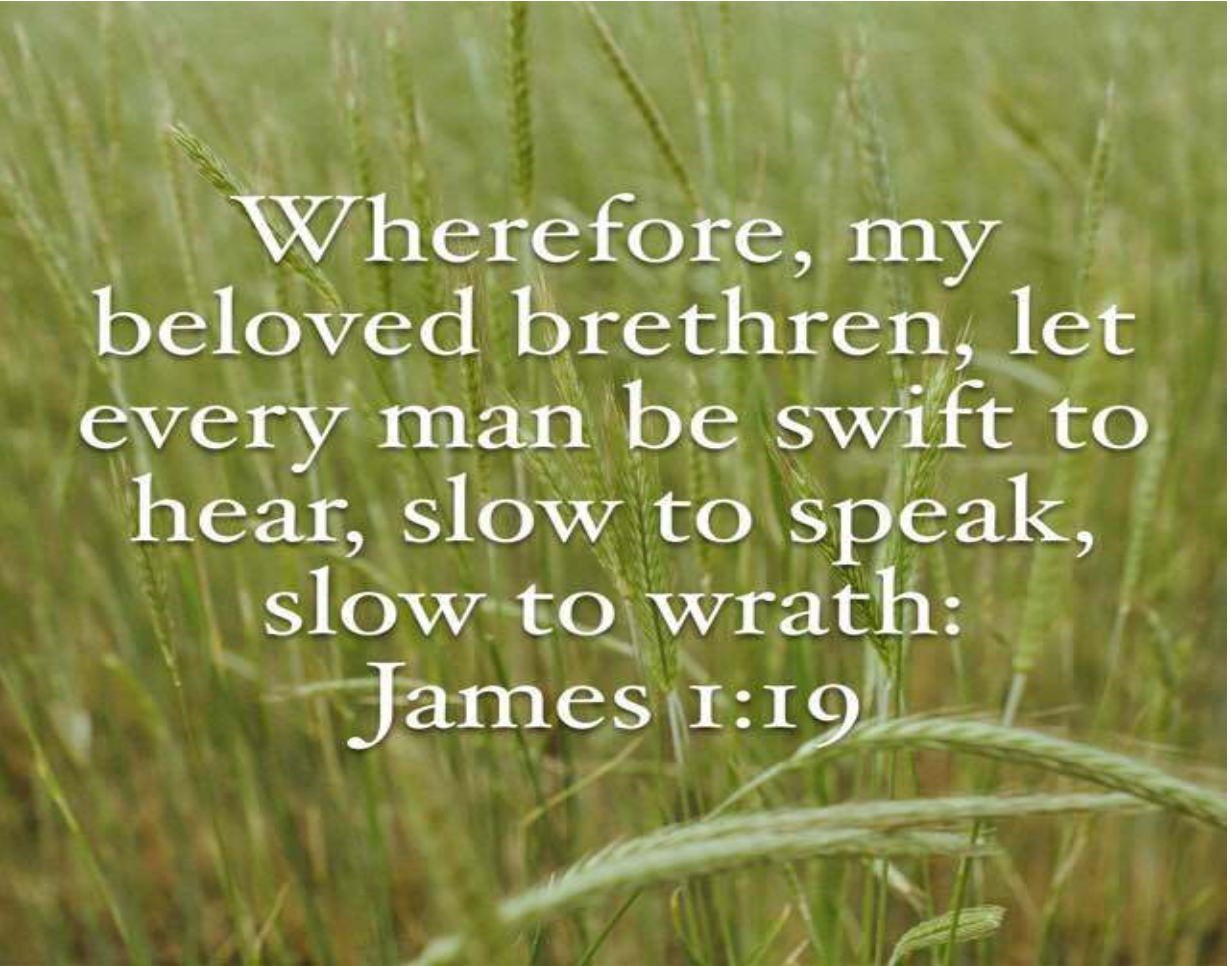


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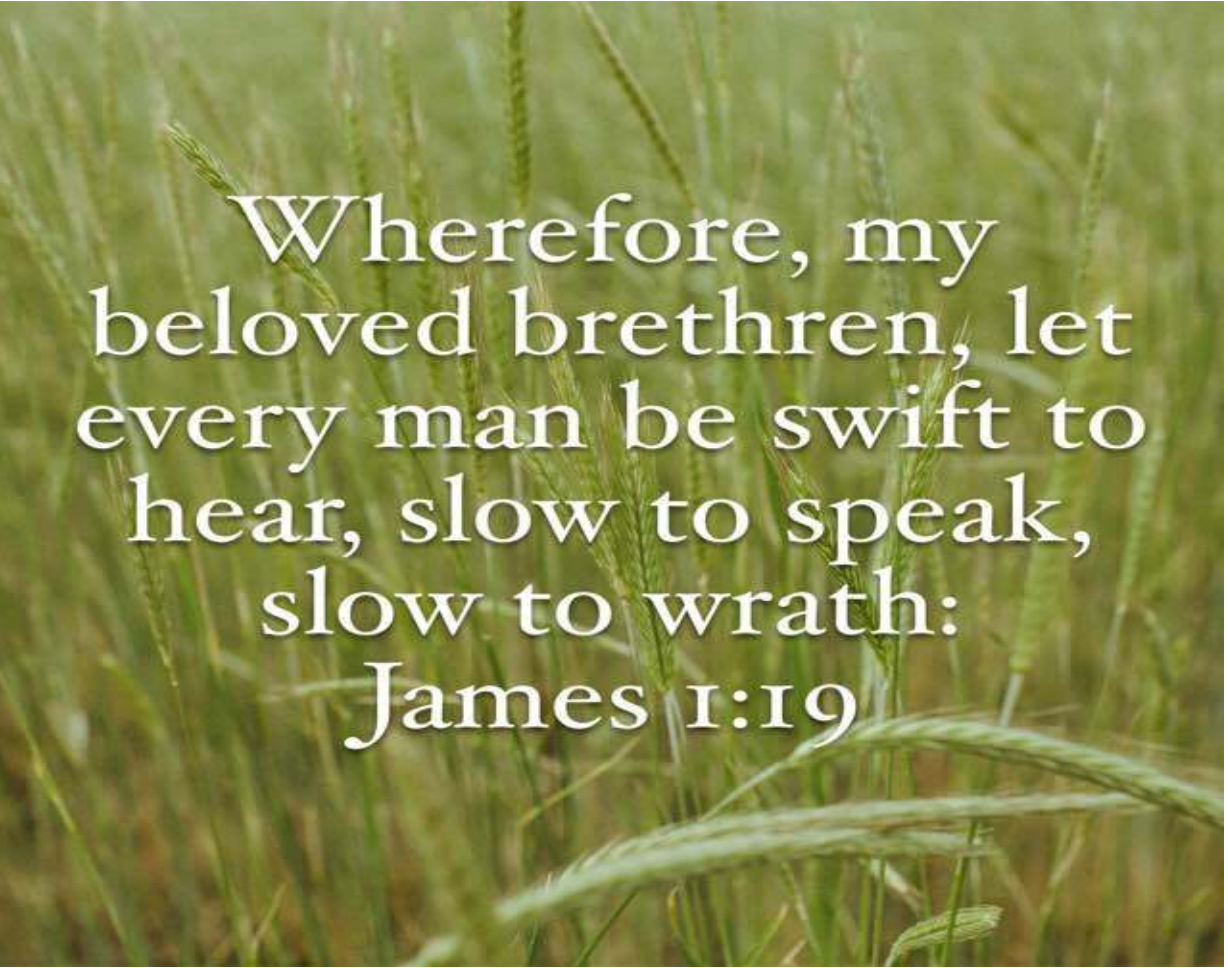


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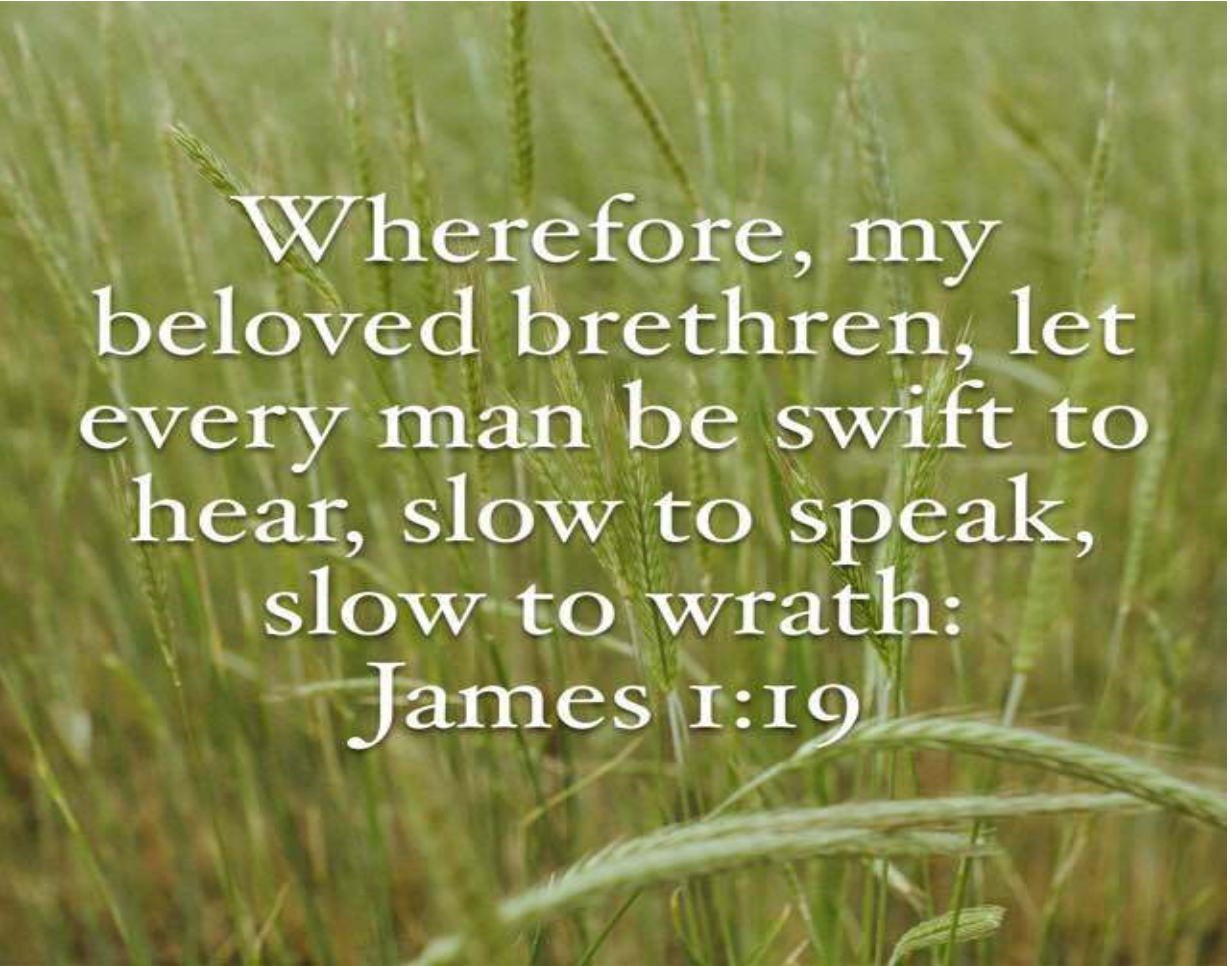


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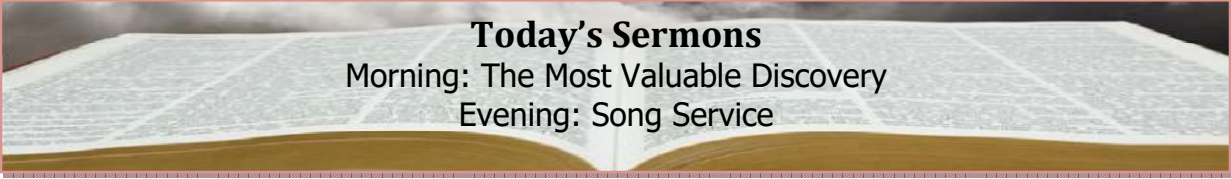
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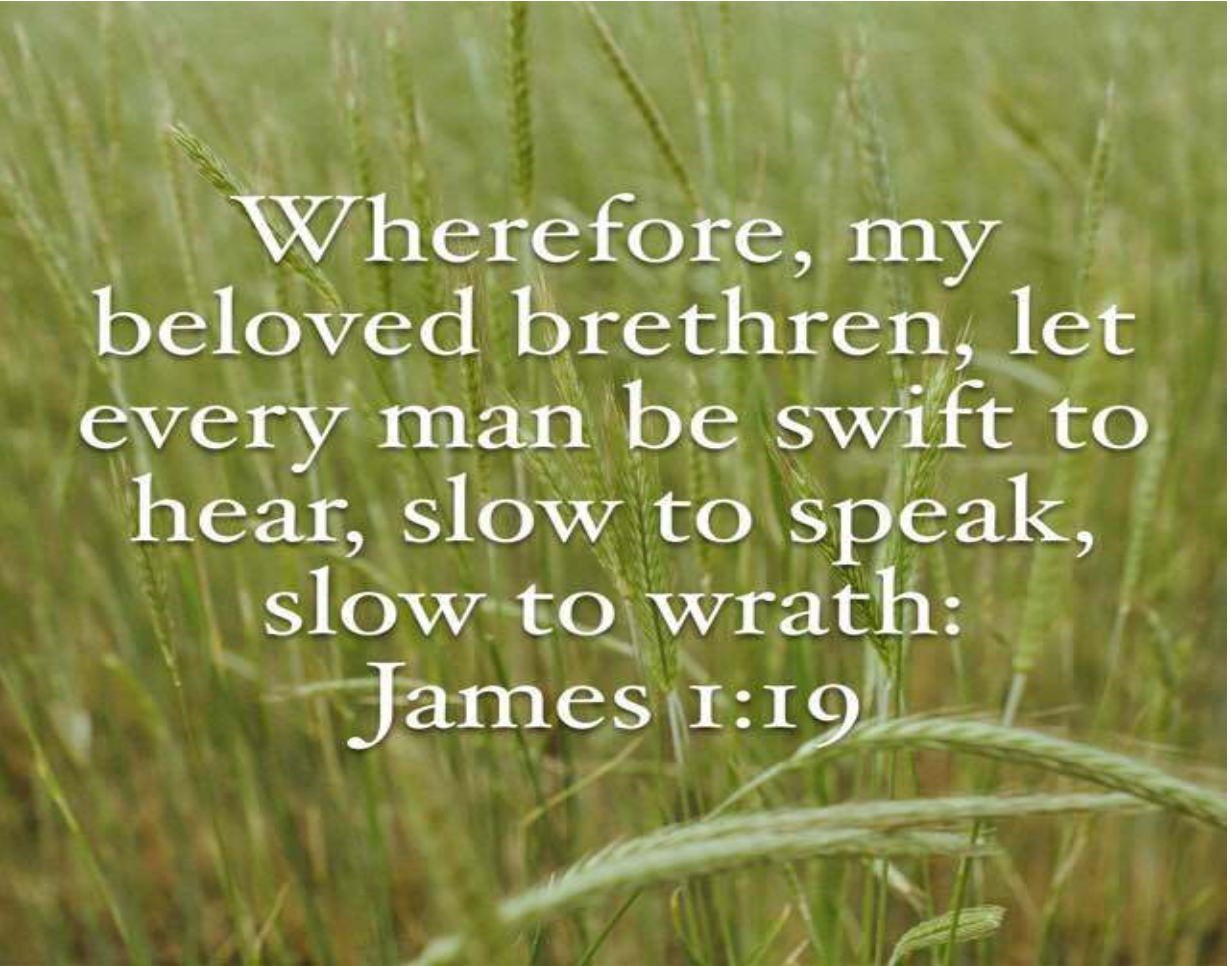


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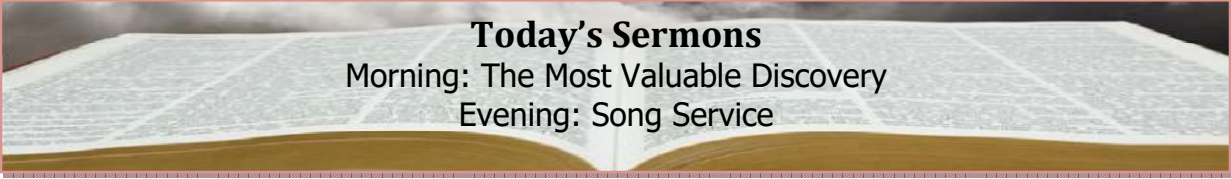
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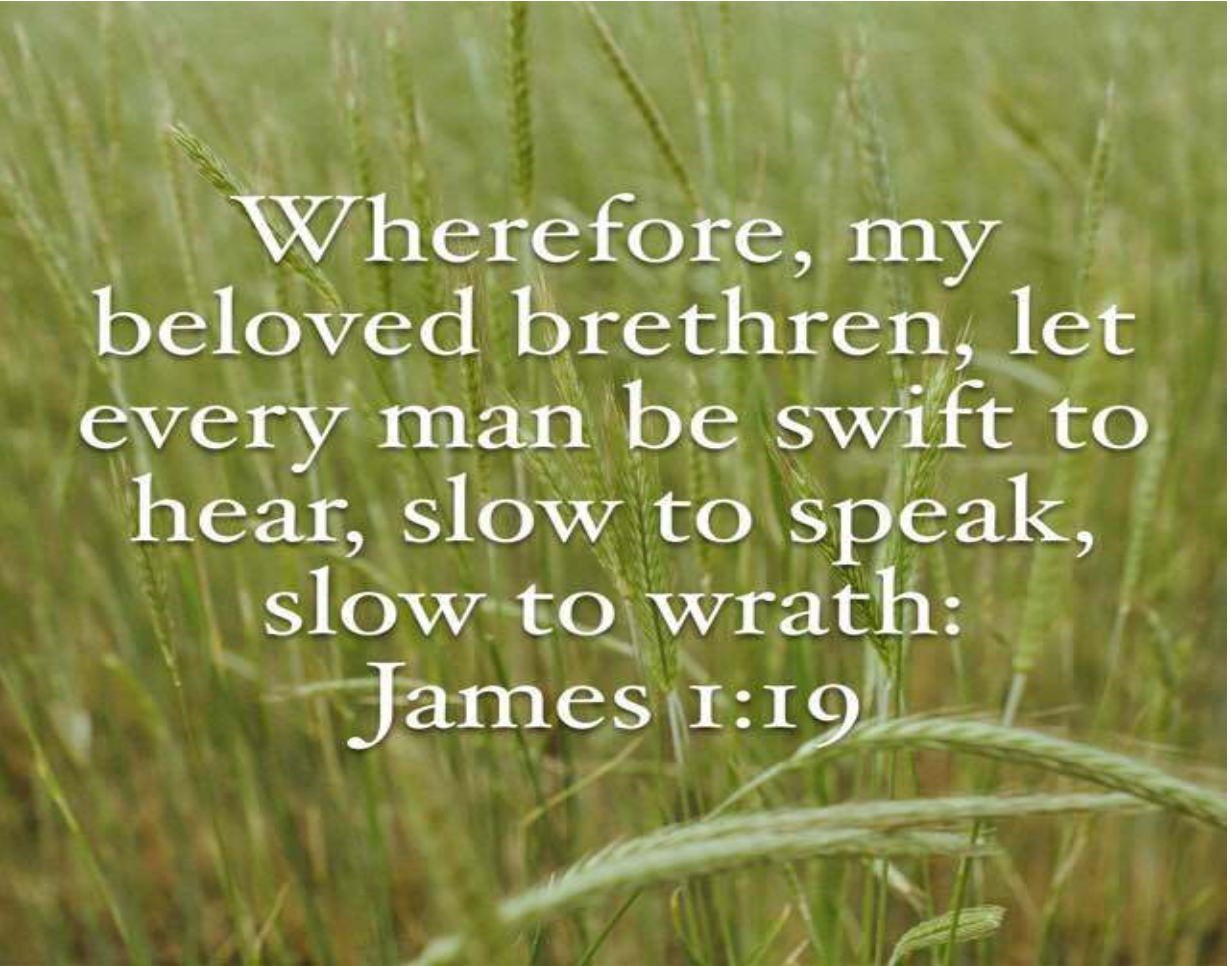


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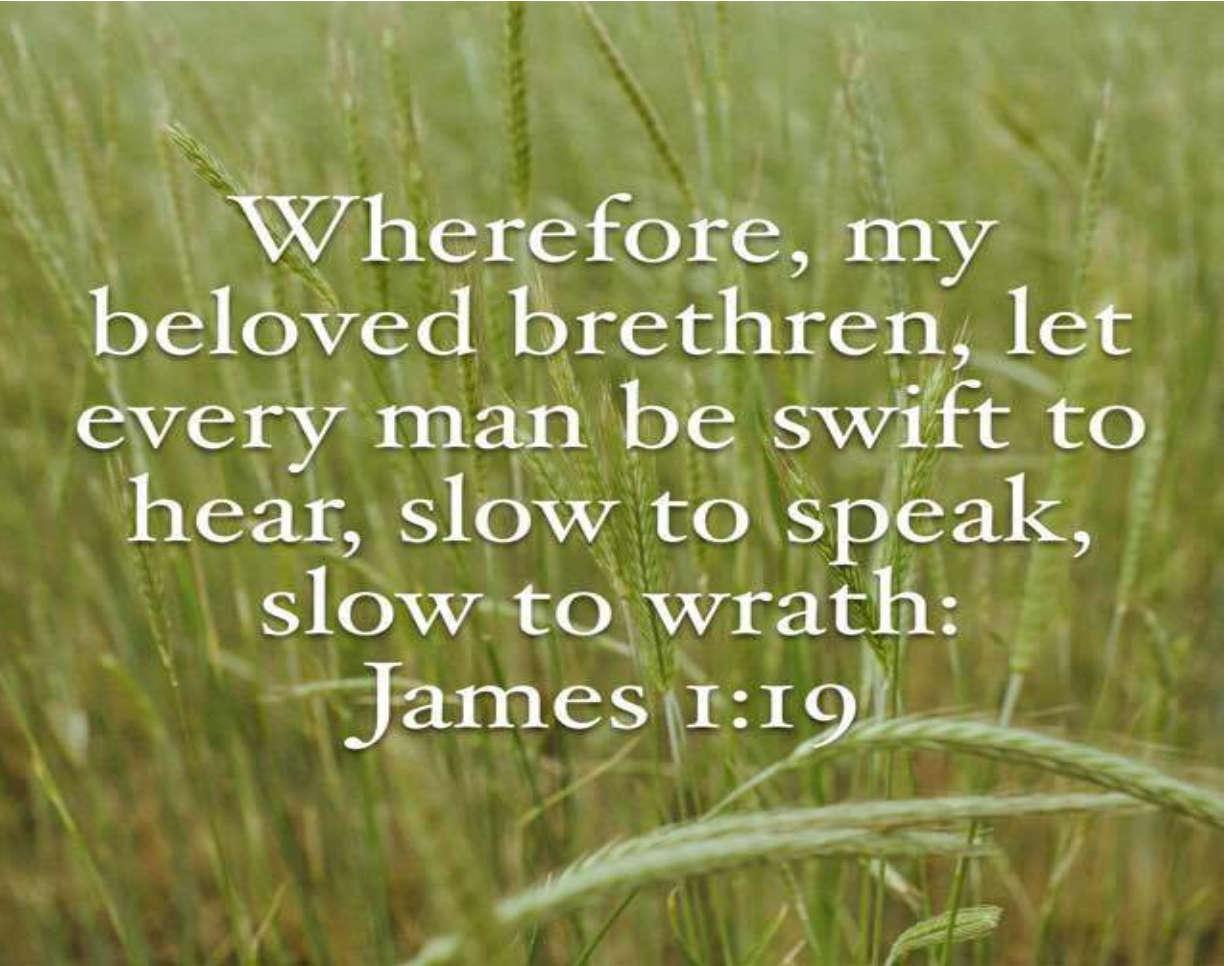


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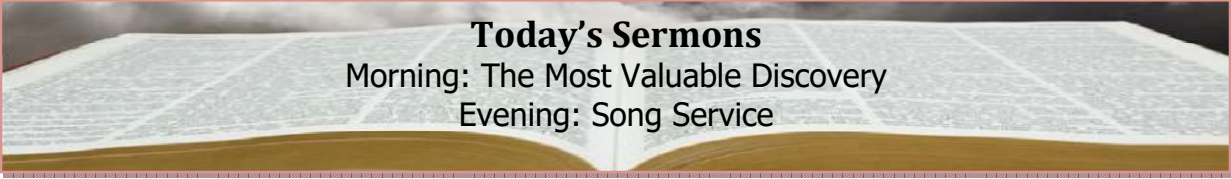
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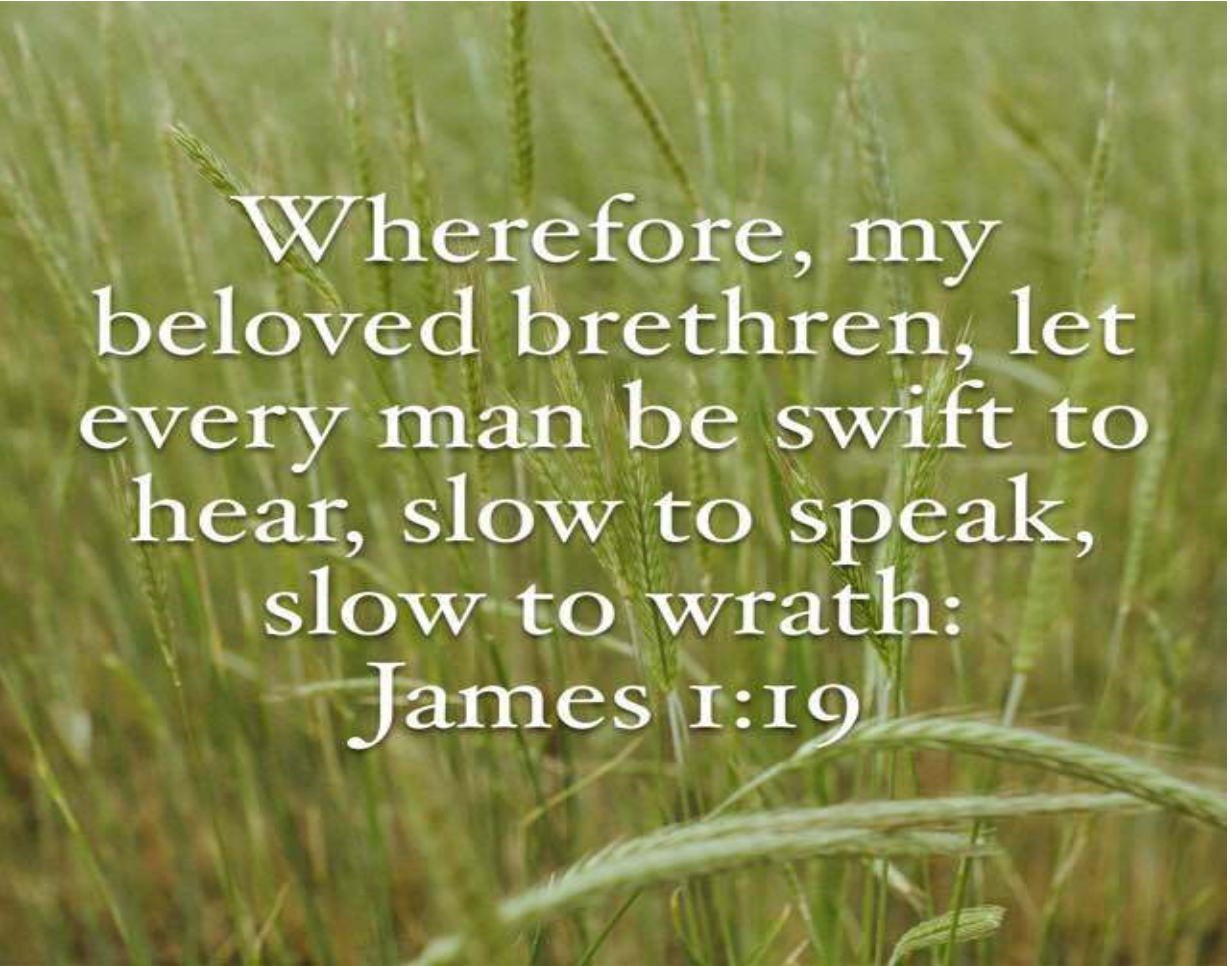


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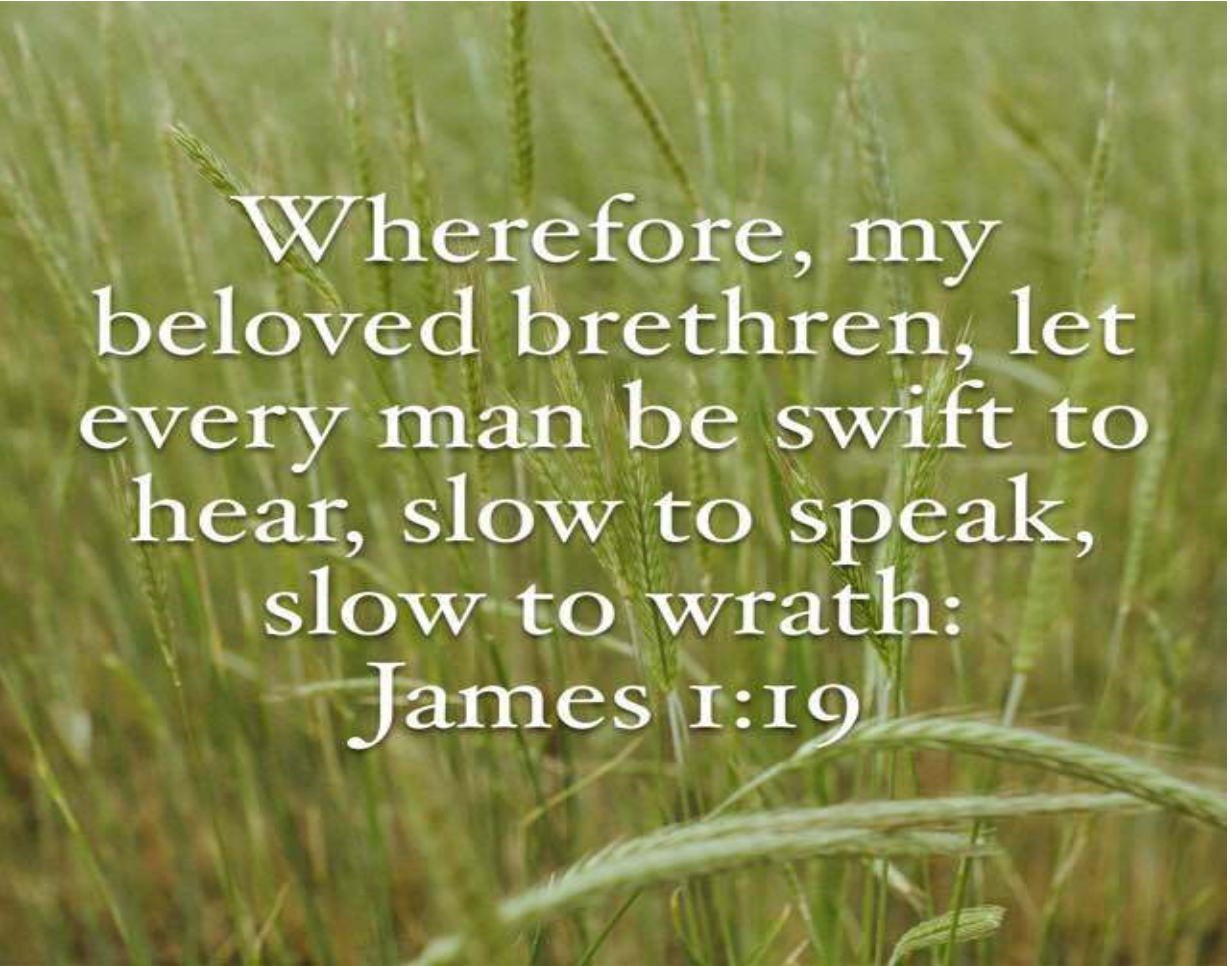


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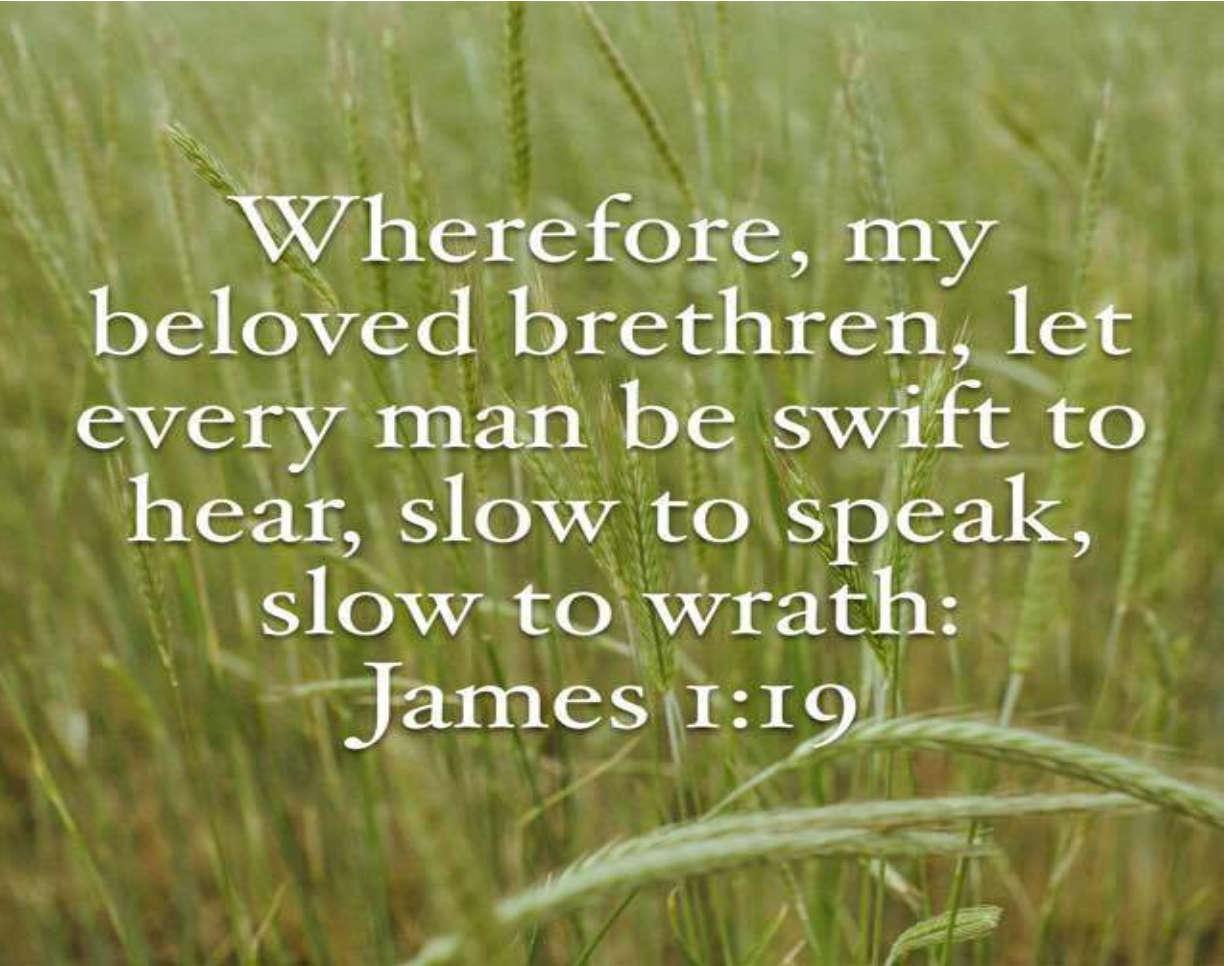


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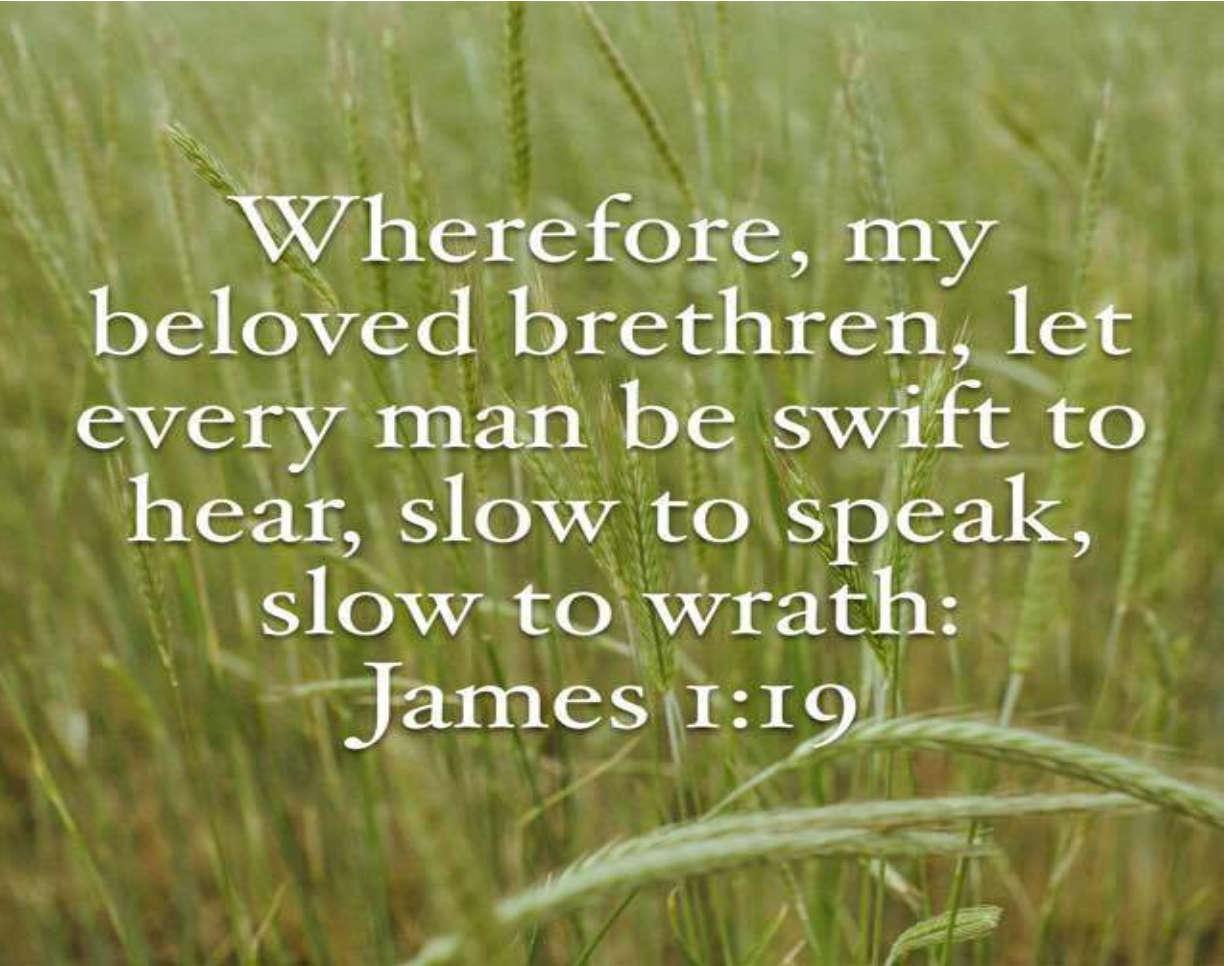


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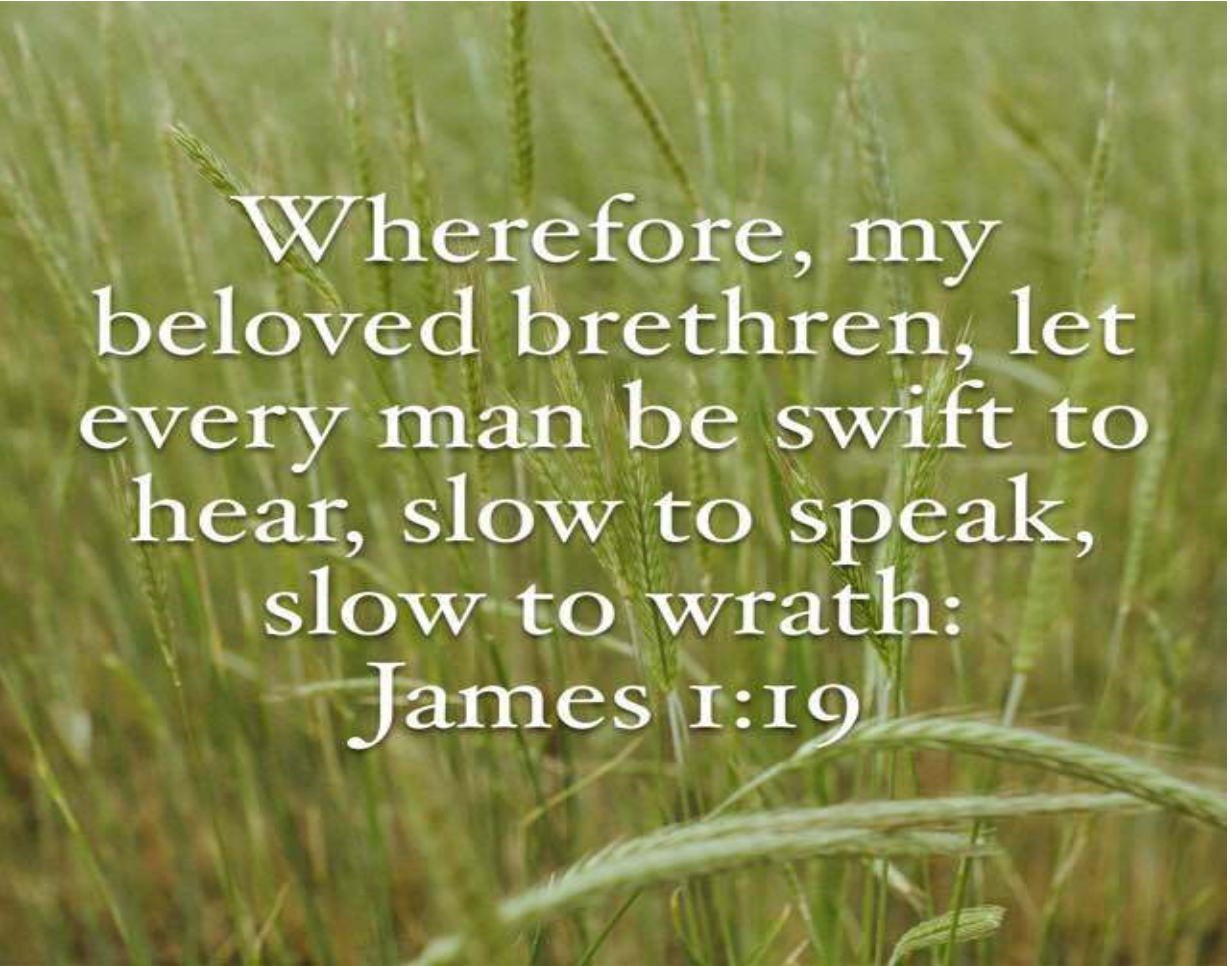


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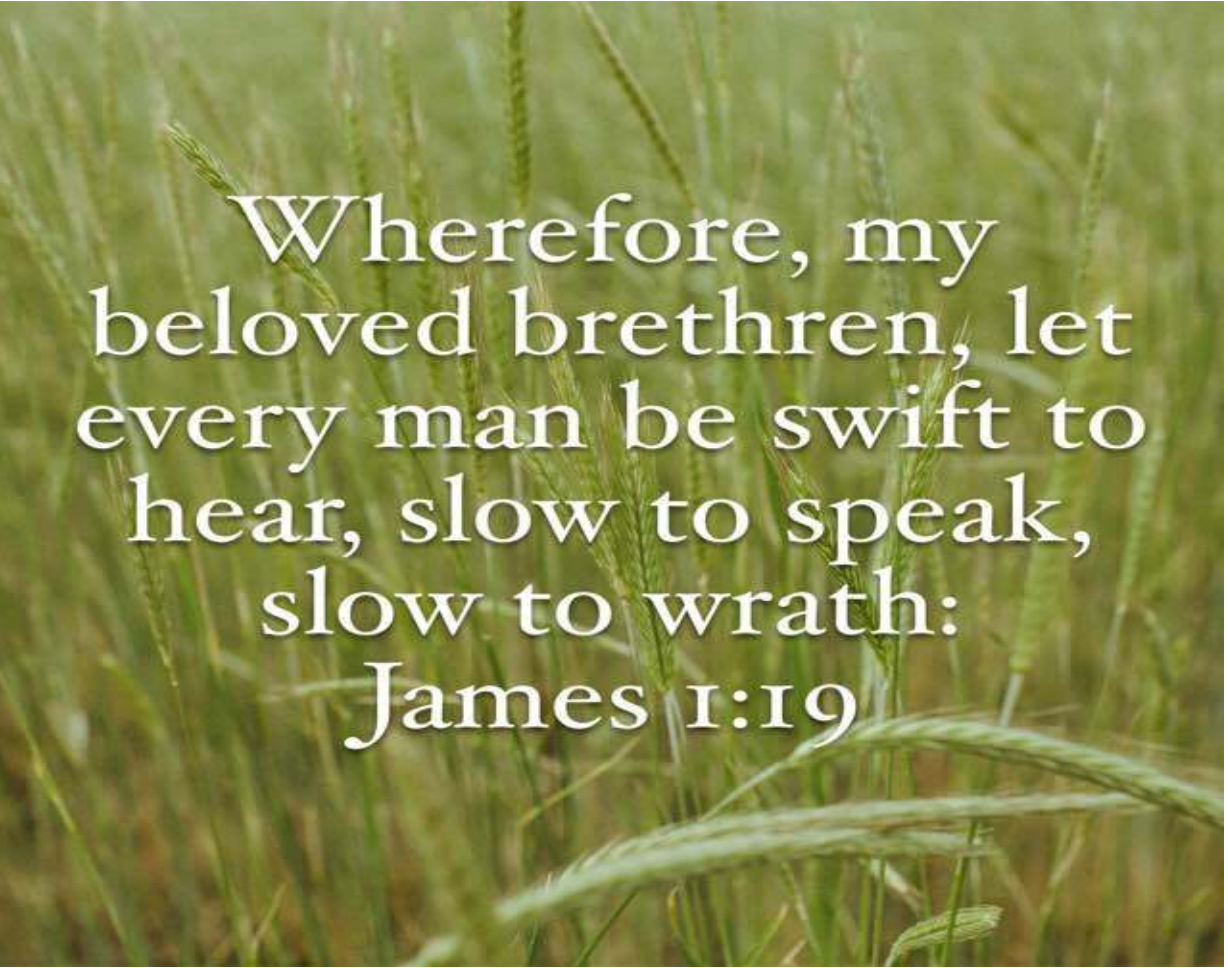


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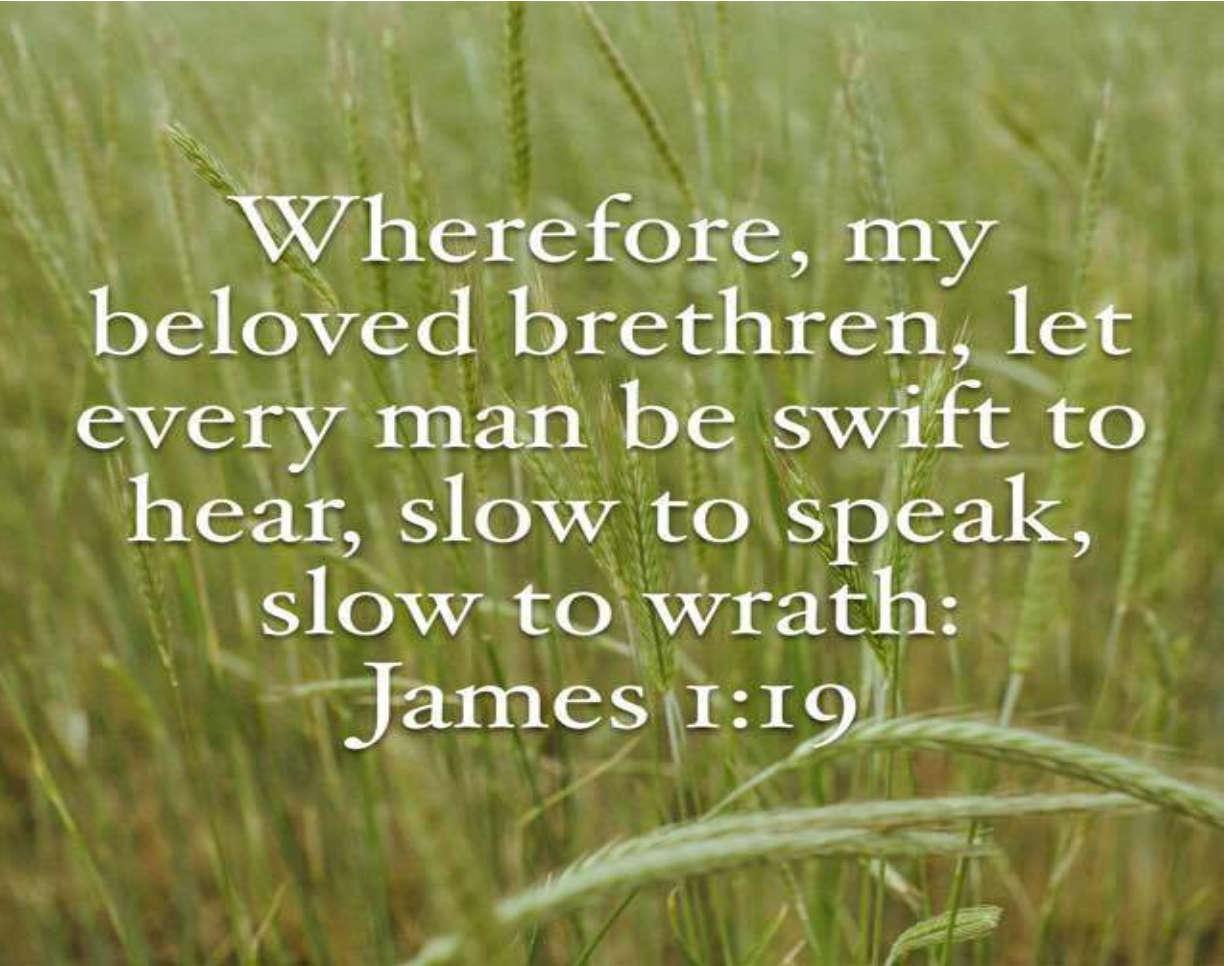


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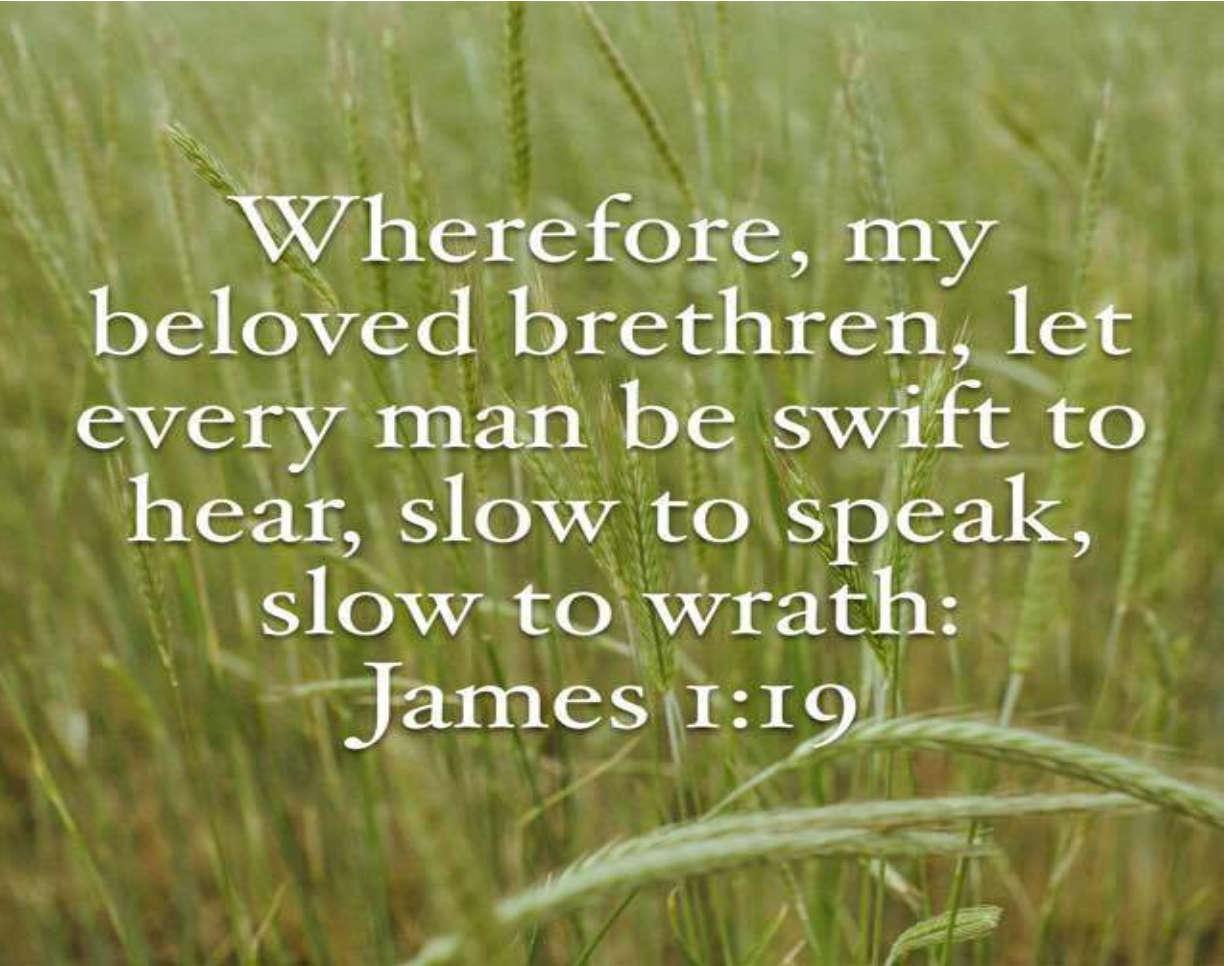


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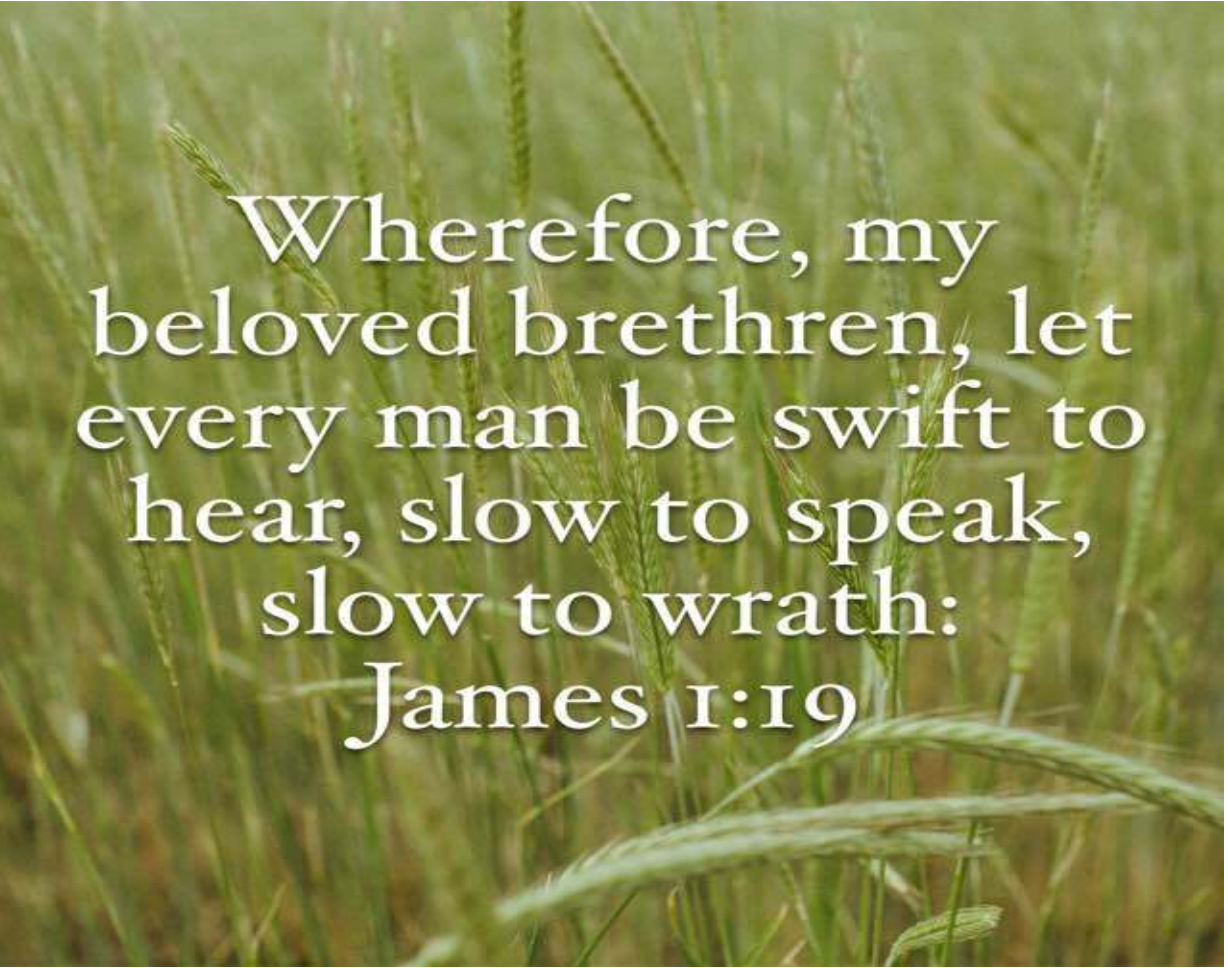


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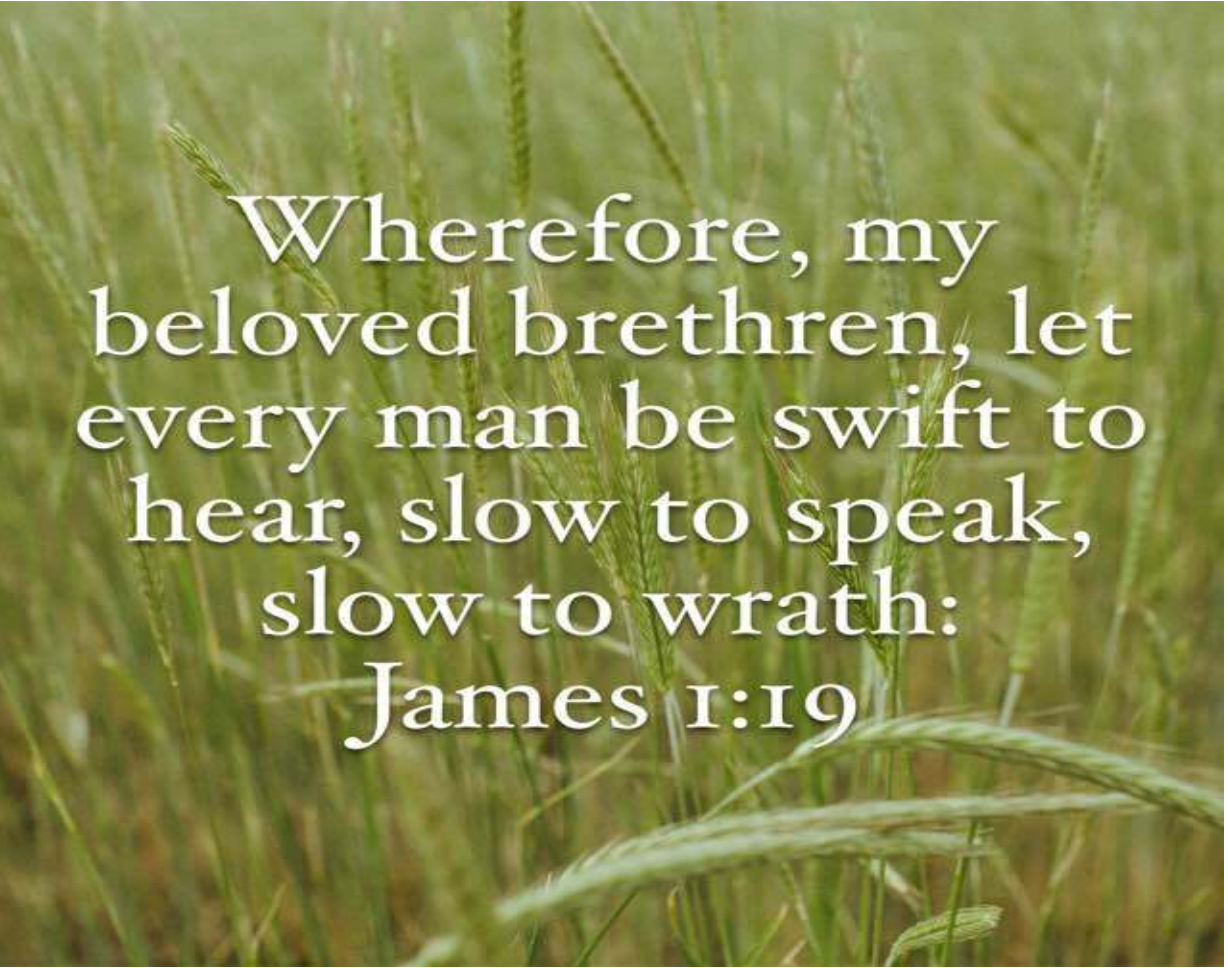


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Wherefore, my
beloved brethren, let
every man be swift to
hear, slow to speak,
slow to wrath:
James 1:19



Back to the Bible

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Minister:
Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

THE ONLY AUTHORITY IN RELIGION
Roger D. Campbell

Do you believe in heaven? The Bible clearly teaches that heaven exists, and that it is totally free from corruption (1 Peter 1:3,4). Do you believe that a person can be saved, that is, receive the remission of sins while still living on the earth? The Bible teaches that the remission of sins is, indeed, available through the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 1:7).

If we really desire to be saved and go to heaven, where can we turn to receive proper instruction? Put another way, what standard should you and I accept as a guide to follow in our religious activities? Anyone that has even casually observed the religious world of our day recognizes that religious division and confusion abound. Why is that? At least in part, such a scenario can be explained by the fact that people follow different standards of authority in their religious practices. Such is not only the case in our country, but in other nations as well.

JESUS' QUESTION ABOUT AUTHORITY
During the last week of His earthly life, Jesus was teaching in the city of Jerusalem. At that time, He also performed miracles and "cleaned up" the Jewish temple by running out some of the Jews that were corrupting it. During that week, on one occasion some of the Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority?" (Matthew 21:23). Jesus' response included these two questions: "The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven, or of men?" (Matthew 21:25). None could deny that John the Baptizer had baptized a lot of people.

Continued Inside

Our Lord’s inquiry focused their attention on one issue: Where did John get his authority to baptize people? In fact, Jesus’ second question made it plain that there were only two possibilities: either John’s baptism came from heaven (meaning that it came from God), or else it came from men. There is a great lesson here for all people of every generation to learn. What is the lesson? In matters of religion, all that we believe, teach, and practice comes either from God, or from men. There is God’s way, and there is man’s way. There is God’s teaching, and there is man’s teaching. There is God’s wisdom, and there is man’s wisdom. What shall it be for you and me?

SOME POPULAR FORMS OF HUMAN AUTHORITY

When it comes to making religious decisions, how do people of our day make their choices? What is it that they use to determine what course of action is right? How do they decide which things are acceptable, which matters are required, and just what is forbidden? Many, perhaps in some cases not even realizing it, appeal to human standards of authority.

There are instances when it is obvious that people do in religious matters just what they personally want to do. Do you remember what the children of Israel did when Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments from the Lord? They put their gold together and made a golden calf, which they proceeded to worship (Exodus 32). Before they engaged in this idolatry, God had already plainly told them that they were not to worship other gods, nor were they to make any idols (Exodus 20:3,4). Now here is a point of great importance. The children of Israel fully understood that God had forbidden them to practice idolatry. Yet, they did it anyway. Why? The bottom line is, they did it because they wanted to! Their action, however, did not please God. In the realm of religion, simply because we like something or want to do it, that does not make it right in the sight of the Lord.

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