



# A BACKWARD GLANCE

General context for this epistle:

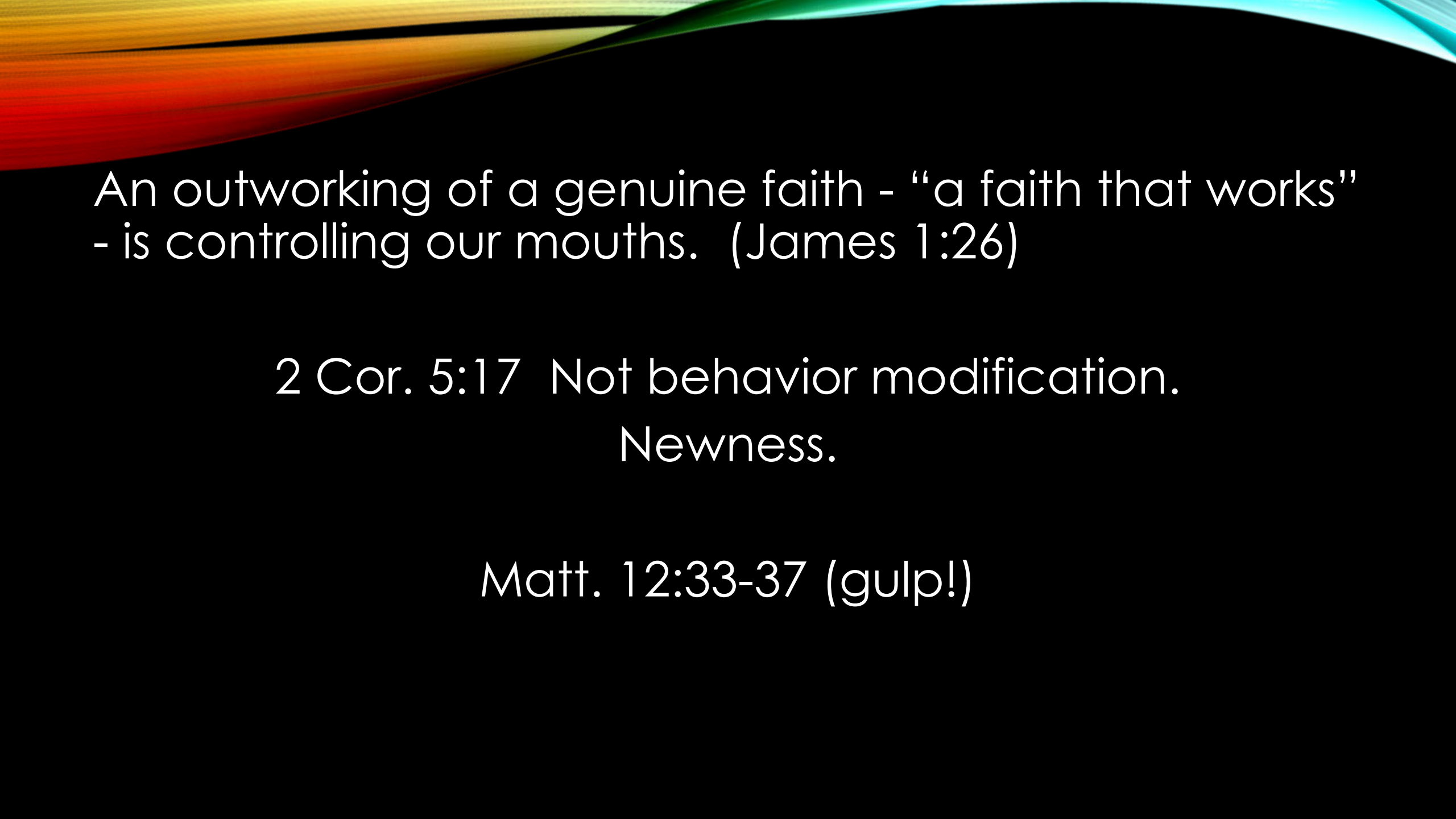
Living for Christ in the midst of trials

Most recently (2:14-26) The importance of demonstrating our faith even when sorely tested (example, Abraham and Rahab)



# THE PRACTICE OF OUR PROFESSION: WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

James 3:1-12



An outworking of a genuine faith - “a faith that works”  
- is controlling our mouths. (James 1:26)

2 Cor. 5:17 Not behavior modification.  
Newness.

Matt. 12:33-37 (gulp!)



VSS. 1-2

James throws out a warning:

Teachers face greater scrutiny, so be careful.  
So, should we avoid teaching at all cost? Nope.

The goal is to help us understand the power of words  
- and the inherent risks

## BITS, BOATS & A BABY BLAZE VSS. 3-6

Each example is of a relatively tiny thing that greatly impacts something so much larger. So it is with our tongues.

If verse 6 sounds overly dramatic,  
consider Jeremiah 17:9

## AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY? VSS. 7-8

“No man can tame the tongue...”

Yet Scripture says, “Do not let any unwholesome (rotten, worthless, bad, corrupt) talk come out of your mouths...” Eph. 4:29 (Eph. 5:4)

Lies. (John 8:44) Slander and critical speech.  
(Rev. 12:10) Gossip. Boasting. Arrogance. Etc.



Our part:

“Take every thought captive...” 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Our prayer:

“Let the words of my mouth AND the meditations of my heart be pleasing in Your sight O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14



# INCOMPATIBILITY VSS. 9-12

I mean, James is just stating facts...

It has been said, “Christ is either Lord OF all or He is not Lord AT all.” Is He Lord of your tongue?

“Create in me a clean heart...” Psalm 51