

Therefore, in order for James to make a transition away from the problems associated with temptation over to divine provisions of grace gifts, he issues a command for the believer to cease and desist being deceived.

1. Verse 16 begins with the negative **μή (mḗ)**: “Do not,” followed by Imperative Mood #9, the present passive imperative of the verb **πλανᾶω (planáō)**: “to be deceived.”
2. This command is made up of two words in the Greek: **Μή πλανᾶσθε (Mḗ planásthe)**: “Stop being deceived!”
3. James is not writing to heathen. He is writing to believers who, without reliance upon divine guidance in their souls, are being deceived by temptations from the flesh.
4. The sin nature’s agents provocateurs, i.e., its lust patterns, have tempted the soul’s volition to allow sin access into the soul to establish a ménage à trois.
5. Paul comments on this blasphemy about how to avoid its embarrassments:

2 Corinthians 10:3 We walk around in the flesh [the soul is in the body of corruption but independent of it], we do not fight according to the flesh [the sin nature].

v. 4 The weapons of our combat are not associated with the flesh [human weaponry], but powerful through God for the destruction of cosmic fortifications.

v. 5 Assaulting and demolishing propaganda and disinformation from the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Didactics that is raised up against the knowledge of God, bringing into captivity every human-viewpoint system of thought to the authority of Christ,

v. 6 holding in readiness to punish all deviation from obedience to truth, when your obedience to truth has been so advanced as to fully influence your soul. (EXT)

6. The believer's external enemy is from extrinsic fifth columns, but even more dangerous are the intrinsic fifth columns resident in the flesh, the agents provocateurs.
7. Thus the command of verse 16, "Do not be deceived," is the present passive imperative of the verb **πλανᾶω** (*planáō*): "to be deceived." The present tense is progressive denoting that which has begun in the past and continues into the present.
8. The passive voice indicates that the "beloved brethren" are receiving the action of deception from extrinsic fifth columns which their resident inventory of doctrine is unable to withstand or overcome.
9. The verb *planáō* is the ninth imperative mood of the book. Those who are not to be deceived are believers who have eternal life and cannot lose it.
10. However, many of those James addresses face tests of their own making and when confronted with the result they complain, "Why did God let this happen to me?"
11. God had nothing to do with it. God created man with a soul. He imputed a human spirit at the moment of salvation. Man is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit to acquire divine guidance to resolve problems.
12. Believers who do not take advantage of the power of the Spirit and the Word will make poor choices and many of them are made because of the influence of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

v. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (NASB)

13. Lucifer is the ruler of this world. Those who love the world are vulnerable to "the things in the world," a danger overcome by the believer who is "not of this world":

End JAS1-31. See JAS1-32 for continuation of study on p. 311.)

John 15:19 “If you were from the world [2d class condition: you are not now but you once were], the world would keep on having love for its own, but I have chosen you [aorist middle indicative of the verb ἐκλέγω (*eklégō*): doctrine of election] out of the world, because of this the world keeps on hating you. (EXT)

14. James’ point is that if a believer is deceived it is because he deceived himself because he did not apply the doctrines that he knew or, worse, did not know at all.
15. This gives Lucifer a free shot at any believer. His brilliance is capable of leading a loser believer down a path of self-aggrandizement or self-pity.
16. Therefore, the mandate, “Stop being deceived,” requires the believer to get with the system by investing serious study in the Word of God.
17. No believer is able to do battle with the devil short of divine power contained in the Bible. Matriculation in the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics is required for developing an effective inventory to withstand assaults from the Dark Side.
18. Believers who have failed to acquire problem-solving devices are overwhelmed in the current Zeitgeist of what’s left of client nation America.
19. Many Christians are presently upset about the decline of traditional standards in this country. This is Operation Rip Van Winkle. Washington Irving’s character, who passed out after drinking too much Holland gin, spent the next twenty years asleep. He awakened after the War for Independence thinking King George III was still in charge.
20. Well, it’s not that bad, but loss of thought has crept deliberately onward so that the foundational standards, designed by God to maintain an environment of freedom, have dangerously eroded.
21. In the process, the diminishment of witnesses for the Prosecution has led the way. It is this condition about which James warns, “Stop being deceived!”