Murphy's Law*

James 1:1-4 (1) James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.
(2) My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
(3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
(4) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
What in the world is James thinking of?, count it joy when you fall into different temptations? Do you have what most people call a pet peeve, an annoyance or irritation or perhaps anger causing unrighteous behavior. But James says the trying of your faith worketh patience. If one should overcome the frustration caused by a pet peeve, that would certainly be something to be joyful about. Just think of it, no more anger, no more irritation, no more frustration. A pet peeve, ceasing to be an anger problem could allow patience to flood ones soul. What a relief that would be, to overcome anger, frustration and be able to hammer sin at the source instead of being hammered by sin. However there is that old foe, Murphy's Law to contend with. What is Murphy's Law? It is the proposition; that if something can go wrong, it will!! And that proposition has the potential of becoming a pet peeve. But why do these things happen? Well, most likely it is that interfering hand of the antagonist of God's people, who will devour a righteous person if he can, by using tricks such as Murphy's Law, pet peeve's, anger, detrimental habits, vengeance or whatsoever he puts into a mans mind, interfering in people's lives that hinder righteous living. Lock him out with the keys of the kingdom, turn your Bible to;
Matthew 16:18-19 (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates

of hell shall not prevail against it.
(19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Peter, being the keeper of the keys shared them, he preached them on the day of Pentecost. Are there other keys? Yes there are, turn with me to;
1Peter 5:8-10 (8) Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
(9) Whom **resist** stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.
(10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.
Yes we will suffer, but it need not necessitate a temptation of anger. But one cannot let his guard down! One must use the keys to be successful against the devil in his relentless pursuit. He will be a constant interruption in your life causing havoc and eventual ruin if you let him. There are two opposing forces, righteousness and evil. Evil will devour, righteousness will set you free. God is not willing that any should be devoured, but that all should be set free. Turn your Bibles to;
Romans 8:35-39 (35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
(36) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
(37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
(38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

(39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Is there anything that can separate one from the love of God? Well, ONESELF was not on that list just read. However we have a key called resistance, which will not be a futile attempt if you remain persistent in the faith. The love of God is attainable and maintainable. You and I can do it and there is a way! Turn your Bibles to;
James 4:7-8 (7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
(8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.
Resistance can be difficult, but it is possible. If one were to hit his thumb with a hammer, he should not rant and rave flying off the handle even cursing. People that fly off the handle expressing anger may have what is called sudden anger. People with sudden anger are like thunderstorms on a summer day. They zoom in from nowhere, blast everything in sight, and then vanish as tho it never existed. Sometimes it's lightning and thunder, a big show that soon blows away. But all to often someone may get hurt. Ones inner-peace may become emotionally strained, most likely taking considerable time to repair, especially if sin is at the door. They release all their feelings, so they may feel good or relieved for the time being, but despair eventuality takes over. Loss of control is a major problem with sudden anger. It can be a danger to ones soul and give the wrong example to others. When one losses control they may say and do things they later regret, but by then it's too late. There is a way, God's way, to deal with ones anger. If you are interested turn to;
Ephesians 4:26,27 and 31 (26) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
(27) Neither give place to the devil.

(31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
What does Paul mean, "be angry and sin not" and again to, "put away anger with all malice". The reasoning is this; If one does become angry, that anger should subside before sundown and one must resist sin while in an anger mode. Use Peter's keys to successfully resist ones own anger and in the process resist the devil and thereby please God. Turn with me to;
2Peter 1:5-6 (5) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
(6) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience;
Temperance is self-restraint, as in behavior or expression. Adding temperance to ones arsenal of self defense is essential before patience can follow. How could one have patience if they were lacking self-restraint. So then, one must learn to control their temper. What is temper?
***Temper** as a **{noun}** means**, Habit of mind, especially with respect to irritability or patience. Outbursts of anger.*
***Temper** as a **{verb}** means**, To soften or tone down.*
It would seem strange that the same word can have two opposing meanings. However that is where language usage is critical, so one can determine the meaning of a word by the way it is used in a sentence. Thus a person can temper their temper. Language is a system of formalized symbols, signs, sounds, gestures, that are used or conceived as a means of communicating thought or emotion, and are thus enabled to communicate intelligibly with one another. Emotions, such as hate, anger, evil speaking and the like come from the heart and out of the mouth. These emotions allow the devil, that is satan, to enter in quite easily. Remember Murphy's law? If anything can go wrong it will. Well, nothing can be more wrong than allowing satan to overtake ones emotions and allowing anger, to enter in. Resist such in the faith.
Now turn to;

Matthew 15:12-20 (12) Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?
(13) But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.
(14) Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.
(15) Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.
(16) And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?
(17) Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?
(18) But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.
(19) For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:
(20) These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.
It has been asked, which is the great commandment in the law? And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might (Deut 6:5). And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30).
Nothing can separate one from the love of God except ones own self. But why allow ones own emotion of anger to be a wedge. Think this one through very carefully. At the deepest level of ones consciousness, beliefs, values, and needs, what is it about ones self that has allowed a particular event to make one angry? Are my beliefs, values, goals, and judgments well founded and helpful? What is the basis for my sense of justice? What is it I need that I am not getting that will prevent anger outbursts? What is it about Murphy's Law that is so overwhelming that causes one to lose control?

If something does go wrong, can you overcome?
Begin by focusing on the constructive steps you can take to move forward. If ones actions of responding to Murphy's Law for example, causes a dramatic anger display that does not effect the needed change, then that anger display is not a good choice. Keep in mind that acting in anger inevitably creates more anger. You actually feel anger, as a result, these involuntary changes in your body occur: Increased heart rate, increased blood pressure and tensed muscles. These things are not good for ones physical health. The Bible does allow one to be ye angry and sin not. *However the Bible also said,* Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice (Eph 4:31).
If one will put off these things, then Murphy's Law will be of less consequence and will have less power over ones emotions, thereby enabling one to concentrate on these keys, turn to;
Philippians 2:14-16 (14) Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
(15) That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
(16) Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.
If one is to shine as lights in the world, he cannot be overcome by Murphy's Law or such like. One is not to put a basket over his light. Murphy's Law could be that basket. How can ones light shine if covered by anger, wrath, or filthy communication out of ones mouth. When has anger, wrath, or evil speaking ever corrected Murphy's law? Therefore one should seek further for the answer that will enable one to necessitate a change for good. Murphy's law cannot be changed. What can change is ones reaction, ones thought process. Mankind was made in the image of God. Does God anger? Turn with me to;

Numbers 32:13 And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.
The Lord has emotions, even anger that necessitated a change. Jesus also expressed His emotions, turn with me to;
Mark 11:15-17 (15) And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;
(16) And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.
(17) And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.
This scripture reading does not say that Jesus was angry. However his actions were such that he gave the appearance of anger. Why? Because the spiritual leaders had allowed the Lord's House to become a house of merchandise. Cannot one see this very thing happening in the religious world today?
But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction (2Peter 2:1).
To effect righteous change, search out the keys recorded in;
2Timothy 4:2-4 (2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
(3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
(4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
Would not false prophets bringing in damnable heresies and turning people away from the truth unto fables be

disobedience? The wrath of God is coming, Turn with me to;
Revelation 6:15-17 (15) And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;
(16) And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:
(17) For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?
The disciples had been astonished by an earlier statement, if the hand select of Jesus were astonished, we certainly should be. Turn your Bibles to the gospel of;
Mark 10:23-27 (23) And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!
(24) And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!
(25) It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
(26) And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?
(27) And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.
I don't know if it was Murphy's law per-say that caused the worst anger ever displayed by mankind that condemned Jesus to the cross. When the arresting officers asked if he was Jesus of Nazareth, he said, I am He. A disciple drew a sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. For a moment, confusion reigned, swords were drawn, and a battle seemed imminent. Jesus told his disciples to cease their hostile actions and He healed the man whose ear had been cut off. An eerie quiet now enveloped the garden. The fierceness of

the disciples evaporated. They were outnumbered, and their eyes were fearful and they fled. It was now late at night. A few hours earlier, Jesus had been breaking bread with his disciples. Now, they were gone. The soldiers took Jesus to the Council of the High Priests where Caiaphas, the high priest, questioned him. During the questioning, Caiaphas asked Jesus, Are you the Messiah? Jesus did not answer the question directly, but allowed his interrogators to conclude that he had said yes. He did not respond to other questions. His silence was infuriating. From the priests point of view, this troublesome rabbi had caused enough mischief for the Council of Priests! Had he not chased the moneychangers from the Temple? In their twisted opinion, His teachings were heretic and must cease. We must remember, this was the opinion of the priests, the spiritual leaders of the Jews. Witnesses were brought forth to testify that Jesus had said he would tear down the Temple and rebuild it in three days. This was a most blasphemous statement, as the Temple was the most holy of structures in Jerusalem. Other false witnesses had come and gone contradicting one another. They could not seem to get their stories straight. Finally at the last, two false witnesses were brought into the chamber that sealed the fate of Jesus. Jesus was silent throughout this proceeding. Angered to the point where he tore his clothes in frustration, Caiaphas pronounced Jesus a heretic, and, with the consent of his fellow priests, sentenced Jesus to death. The next morning, the Council of High Priests met again. It had been a long night, but the high priests had hardened in their determination to rid themselves of this threat to their power. They decided to transport Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Having faced His prosecutors, Jesus now faced His judge. There was the smell of blood in the air. They called for the crucifixion of Jesus, the terrible method of execution for traitors used by the Romans. Not convinced that Jesus must die however, Pilate had him taken away and

whipped. He hoped that would satisfy the crowd. Even yet reluctant to sentence Jesus to death, Pilate again proposed that Jesus be released. Crucify him! Crucify him! they shouted. Pilate was faced with an unruly mob --- a threat to the good order of Roman rule. Bowing to the pressure of the crowd, and eager to keep the peace, he reluctantly sent Jesus off to be executed, telling the Jews that he washed his hands of the entire matter. The Priests, in their enthusiasm to kill this pronounced Nazarene heretic, took the responsibility for what was about to occur. It was of little consequence to them for the death of this threat to their religious authority. However, they were a religious authority interested only in preserving their own filthy lucre and power. An authority that had led them in the wrong direction. But to this end many became aware of their error in the destruction of Jesus and began asking, "men and brethren, what shall we do"? You see, with God all things are possible. Because of the peerless value of the death of the Lord, God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis by faith in Christ. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and baptism is the effect of faith; only those who first believe the testimony of God, and by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are baptized into Him for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel and it's invitation is open now, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case let your request be made known while we persuade with song.

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