

God's Good....We're Not

James 1:12-18

A FAITH TO LIVE BY

JAMES

JAMES

God's Good....We're Not James 1:12-18

Background

- James is writing to a mainly Jewish audience
- These are 1st generation Christians
- The book was written about 10 years after Jesus' death and resurrection
 - This means there were eyewitnesses to Jesus
- Written to the church in dispersion
- There would have been lots of Persecution

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James the man

- He was Jesus little brother
- He was an early church leader
 - The letter would have gone out to a lot of churches that sat under the leadership of the early disciples
- James addresses practically how to follow Jesus
- Critics say that it contradicts Paul by emphasizing what we “do” makes us a Christian.
- This is false. James makes the case that action is the result of an internal transformation

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What we have covered

- We are to count it joy when we face trials
- We need to ascribe to God's wisdom rather than our own

Our text today launches off these two things

- Naturally we will end up discussing them

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James 1:12-18

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Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

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Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

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3 things we can learn from this passage

1. Strive to remain steadfast when your faith is tested

- We have all gone through difficult trials in life
- We are a part of a race
- At the end we are blessed
 - This blessing is the eternal life

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2 Timothy 4:6-8

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For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

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3 things we can learn from this passage

1. Strive to remain steadfast when your faith is tested

- We have all gone through difficult trials in life
- We are a part of a race
- At the end we are blessed
 - This blessing is the eternal life
 - AND, in part, the character that God develops in us

Romans 5:3-5

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Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

2. Sin comes from within

- we shift the blame to God for our sin
- we shift the blame to our circumstances
 - James correctly blames his audience for their sin. He is saying "it's you!!"
 - We tend to blame our environment and think sin becomes inevitable
- Our own wickedness prevents us from remaining steadfast in trials

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3. God's Good

- Every good and perfect gift comes from God
 - Trials, Wisdom, Salvation
 - AND every other gift
- God is unchanging
 - He will always give good gifts
- God is the origin of these good gifts

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SO WHAT?!

How do we apply these truths into our lives?

1. We need a high value of steadfastness

- View your trials as Joy, this produces steadfastness
- Maintain and eternal perspective

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2 Corinthians 4:17

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"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

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SO WHAT?!

How do we apply these truths into our lives?

1. We need a high value of steadfastness

- View your trials as Joy, this produces steadfastness
- Maintain and eternal perspective

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2. Own your Sin

- Align our belief with the truth that we are bad!
- Calls for a deep trust in God

3. Acknowledge everything good in your life is from God.

- Not some but ALL
- Don't be deceived...God has provided for you!
- Respond in thankfulness!