

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide

James 1:12-18

6/9/21

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¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Passage Summary

James looks to finish up his discussion of trials by taking the focus off of the outward view of trials and placing it upon what is happening on the inside. He does so by identifying the differences between the nature of God and the nature of man. This past Sunday we centered our attention upon the nature of God. What is God’s view of trials? Does God ever send trials just to see if we will fall? What are God’s motives in trials? James works in this passage to help us understand that **God’s nature is determined to bless others**. Because God’s nature is determined to bless others, then the trials that we experience must be understood from that vantage point. James draws out three specific aspects of God’s character which build his argument that God’s nature is determined to bless others. God is the God of life, of love, and of gifts.

Discussion Questions

(These questions are intended to generate discussion and promote application. Don’t feel pressured to make it through all of them. The questions are made for the discussion leader, not the discussion leader for the questions.)

Blessed

¹² 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.

- Is happiness the same as being blessed? Is it possible to be happy and not blessed? Is it possible to be blessed but not happy?
- Is God concerned with whether or not we are happy?

The God of Life

¹² 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.

- What does the crown of life really mean? What is God offering?
- Is it possible for someone who does not love God to receive the crown of life? Why or why not?
- How can this promise of life impact my life now? What are some practical ways I can make this promise of God affect my life more and more?

The God of love

¹³ *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.*

- Why is it that God "cannot be tempted with evil"? (Temptations from outside God's nature have no appeal to Him)
- Why is it that God Himself does not tempt anyone? (There is no desire from inside the nature of God that compels Him or calls Him to do harm to others)
- How is this different than our nature?
- Why is it important for us to understand God's nature in regards to trials? (So that we deal in truth; so that we make no assumptions about God; so that we do not hold God guilty for things which He is NOT doing; etc.)
- OR – How might a wrong view of God affect our relationship with God? (We might not turn to Him; We might refuse to trust Him; We might grow bitter toward Him; etc.)

The God of gifts

¹⁷ *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.*

- Describe some of the good gifts God has given you.
- When was the last time that it was abundantly clear that God designed a good gift particularly and specifically for you – what was it?
- When was the last time that God put a trial into your life and you remained steadfast through it? How was that a good gift from God?