

Pure Religion
The Birth of Sin – James 1:12-18
February 4, 2018

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.
- **James 1:13**

I. WHAT WE ARE (vss. 14-15, 18)

- We are those who are tested by God (James 1:2; Deut. 8:1-10; 1 Kings 3:12-14).
- We are those who “miss the mark” (vs. 15; 1 Kings 8:46; Ecc. 7:20; Rom. 3:23).
- Sin “conceived” equals death (1 Sam. 2:25; Rom. 5:12-21; 6:23).

II. WHO GOD IS (vss. 13, 17)

- God is perfect, and he cannot be tempted to evil (Ps. 18:30; Hab. 1:13; Matt. 5:48; John 1:14; 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 1:5).
- God is immutable - he never changes (Num. 23:19; Ps. 90:2-4; Ezek. 24:14; Mal. 3:6).

III. WHAT GOD GIVES (vss. 12, 17-18)

- The “crown of life” or “the reward that is life” awaits those who have endured the trials of life (Song 3:11; 1 Cor. 9:25-27; Rev. 2:10).
- God gives every good gift we receive. One of those gifts is his immutability (vs. 17; Num. 23:19; Ps. 90:2-4; Ezek. 24:14; Mal. 3:6).
- The word of God is the agent of change in our new birth (vs. 18; Rom. 10:16-17; 2 Cor. 4:1-6; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:22-25).
- The greatest gift that God gives us, eclipsing life itself, is salvation (vs. 18; Jonah 2:9b).

KNOW: Sin grows, and it is deadly. God is a great God and the giver of salvation. That will never change, because God never changes.

DO: Fight sin. Remain steadfast. Trust God.

Recommended Reading:

The Mortification of Sin, by John Owen (LifePoint Library #241.3 OWE)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 1:12-18

1. James has three points in this section of his letter. What would you say is its overall theme?
2. What does temptation “look” like, according to James?
3. What is God like, according to James?
4. Why are we “blessed” if we remain steadfast under trial? What is our reward?
5. James says in verse 16, “do not be deceived.” Deceived about what? How might his readers have been deceived about God and his gifts?
6. What is your main takeaway from Sunday’s message?