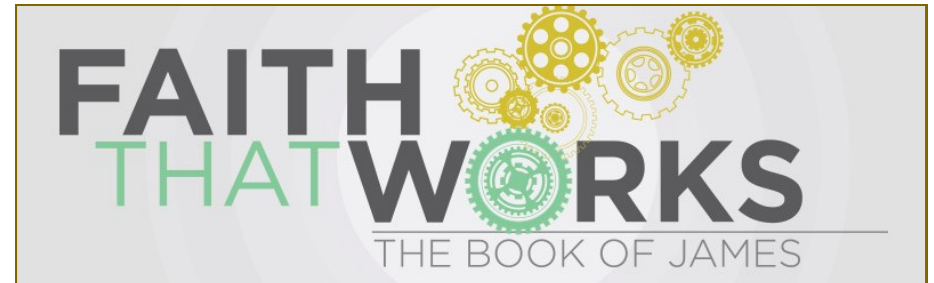


Reflection Questions: Do I truly think of God as good? How do I respond to God's ongoing goodness to me? Am I consistently thankful for what He provides and for what He allows into my life? What blessings of God do I take for granted?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



#7 God's Good Gifts (1:16-18)

Sermon
Notes

February 24, 2019

Quotes to Ponder

God gives good gifts, not impossible tests.

We must view tests as gifts, not traps.

Daniel M. Doriani

Every created thing must necessarily undergo change, for this is its property, even as unchangeableness is the property of God.

Philo

The heart is the poisoned fountain, from whence all actual sins flow.

Thomas Watson

It is no more possible for us to be agents or contributors to our new birth than it was for us to be so in our natural birth.

J.A. Motyer

Goodness, in the Scriptural sense of the term, includes benevolence, love, mercy, and grace.... All these elements of goodness...exist in God without measure & without end. In Him they are infinite, eternal, and immutable.

Charles Hodge

'Of his own will' God did to us all that has been done, without any incentive or prompting, moved only by Himself, because He delighteth in mercy; because His name and His nature are love because evermore, like the sun, it is natural to Him to distribute the beams of His eternal grace.

Charles Spurgeon

By granting us a new birth, God declares that He cannot accept the old birth.... He rejects your first birth (no matter how noble it might have been in the eyes of men), and He announces that you need a second birth.

Warren Wiersbe

The quality of mercy is not strained.

It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven.

William Shakespeare

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1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. How does James establish the work of God through trials versus the work of our own evil desires of giving in to temptation?

3. What do *James 1:17* and *18* tell us about God?

4. What is it about God's nature that teaches us He would never tempt us to commit sin (*James 1:17*)?

5. How do you respond when someone asks, "How can a good God permit all the terrible evil in this world?"

6. How does God's unchangeableness (*Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17*) help us as we go through trials and endure temptations?

7. What is the cause, means, and purpose of God's actions concerning our salvation (*James 1:18*)?

8. Why doesn't an unbeliever accept *the things of the Spirit of God* (*1 Corinthians 2:14*)?

9. When we were dead in our sins (*Ephesians 2:5-6*) what did God do for us?

10. What does the phrase *in the exercise of His will* (*James 1:18*) tell us that we need?

11. What is *the word of truth* (*James 1:18*)? How does Paul use this term in the following verses?

2 Corinthians 6:7 —

Colossians 1:5 —

Ephesians 1:13 —

2 Timothy 2:15 —

12. What did *first fruits* (*James 1:18*) mean in the Old Testament?

What does it mean that believers are designed by God to be His *first fruits*?

13. How does God's purpose in our salvation make it inconceivable that He would tempt us to sin (*James 1:13, 18*)?

14. Although salvation is God's work, what is our responsibility according to *Romans 10:13-15* and *1 Corinthians 9:19-23*?