



FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26



Faith and Perspective
James 1:13-18

**You should be as
excited about church
as about the Super Bowl.**

**So when your pastor
makes a point this Sunday,
pour Gatorade®
over his head.**

James 1:13-18

1. Wrong Conclusion (13)
2. Wrong Voice (14-16)
3. Right Theology (17-18)

1. Wrong Conclusion (13)

- “I am being tempted by God”
 - Charge: “It’s your fault, God! You put me in this situation.”
 - God *is* only good and *does* only good

1. Wrong Conclusion (13)

- “I am being tempted by God”
 - God tests us to strengthen and mature us (Gen. 22)
 - We are blessed when we endure under the trial

1. Wrong Conclusion (13)

- Why do we fail the tests? Because we listen to the ...

2. Wrong Voice (14-16)

- Each one is tempted by his own lust
 - *Lust: strong desire or craving*
 - Some bad, some good
 - Problems: inordinate? Ungodly strategies? Ungodly response?

The Story of Manna

- Paul told the Corinthians to learn from Israel's mistakes: do not desire wrong things but endure through the tests (1 Cor. 10:1-13)

2. Wrong Voice (14-16)

- Each one is tempted by his own lust
 - Trials highlight any conflict between our desires and God's
 - We fail the tests when we obey our desires instead of God's

2. Wrong Voice (14-16)

- Each one is tempted by his own lust
 - In the midst of trials we are to *bear up under* (i.e. – *endure*) the test / temptation and be faithful to what God has said (be *doers* – 1:25)

2. Wrong Voice (14-16)

- Do not be deceived (*led astray*)
 - What you *believe* determines how you *perceive* (e.g. – 1:3)
 - ... and how you live

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- *Every act of giving which is good and every gift which is complete ...*
 - Addresses the nature of the Giver and the value of the gifts given
 - God gives good; sin brings death

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- *Every act of giving which is good and every gift which is complete ...*
 - Gifts = maturity (4), wisdom (5)
 - Therefore, receive trials with joy!

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- [continually] *coming down from the Father of [the] lights*
 - Gen. 1:14-19; Ps. 8:3

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- [continually] *coming down from the Father of [the] lights*
 - The God who created the universe is the same God Who gives these good gifts, on a continual basis

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow
 - God doesn't change! (*Immutable*)
 - Mal. 3:6; Rom. 4:20-25
 - God is consistently only good

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- Do we determine what *good* means?
 - *Good = pleasant, agreeable?*
- Rom. 5:1-5
 - Tribulation → perseverance → proven character (maturity) → hope

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- God's good: maturity, character
 - Exult! Rejoice! Consider it joy!
- How might this affect how we pray?
- How does all of this affect our view of 'spiritual warfare'?

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- Worldly wisdom: “I act this way because of what happened to me.”
 - In other words, “It’s God’s fault.”

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- Godly wisdom: These circumstances expose who you are and what you believe, and offer help to grow
 - Matt. 14:22-33
 - Context: 13:1-16:20 (Mark 6-8)

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth
 - Salvation is an act of God's will
 - The simple gospel, empowered by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 10:17)

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth
 - If the *always* and *only good* God willed us to be *saved* from sin, why would He then *tempt* us to sin?

3. Right Theology (17-18)

- so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures
 - Of converts? (1 Cor. 16:15)
 - Of creation? (Rom. 8:19-22)

So What?

- Adopt the right perspective on trials
 - They come from a good God
 - They are good (not nec. pleasant)
 - They are for our good (instruct, discipline, mature)-Heb. 12:11

So What?

- God's glory is more important than our physical well-being -Acts 21:7-14
- God is more concerned with the spiritual than physical -Heb. 11:36-38
- God uses physical circumstances to teach spiritual lessons -2 Cor. 12:7-10

So What?

- What is God trying to teach you?
- Take God at His word and act on it (faith – Heb. 11)
- Be faithful to the faithful God—He is growing you (Rom. 5:3-5)