

GOD'S GOODNESS TOWARDS YOU

(James 1:16-18)

I. INTRODUCTION (James 1:1)

II. THE VALUE OF TRIALS (James 1:2-4)

III. THE VALUE OF GODLY WISDOM AND FAITH (James 1:5-8)

IV. THE CORRECT ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUR IDENTITY (James 1:9-12)

V. THE NATURE OF TEMPTATIONS (James 1:13-15)

VI. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF GOOD (James 1:16-18)

A. YOU SHOULD NOT BE DECIEVED IN UNDERSTANDING THIS TRUTH (1:16)

1. Verse 16 is transitional, to those believers who might attribute evil and temptation to God, they should “*not be* _____” (*pres/pass/imper*), a verb which describes being _____. (1 Cor. 15:33; Gal. 6:7; and 1 John 3:7)
2. There was the tendency to believe that God didn't care, but James defended the Lord to those who doubted His _____ or _____. (v. 16)
3. Once you start to _____ God's goodness, you will be _____ to Satan's offers; and the natural desires within will reach out for his bait.

B. YOU NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE GOODNESS AND GIFTS OF GOD (1:17-18)

1. The good and perfect _____ of God (v. 17a) are starkly contrasted with the _____ that springs from _____ lust (v. 15).
2. These good things habitually come down from our _____ and the _____ of the sun, moon and stars. (v. 17b, cf. Ps. 8:3; 135:7; 136:7-9; Jer. 4:23; 31:35; Amos 5:8; 1 John 1:5)

3. Every created thing must undergo _____, for this is its property (2nd law of thermal dynamics), but God is _____, with Him “*there is no variation or shadow of turning*”. (v. 17c, cf. Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8)

* How can this truth comfort you when going through testings and temptations?

4. James gives an excellent example of God’s good and perfect gifts, in that the Lord “*brought us forth*” i.e., _____ from hell to heaven by His matchless grace. (v. 18a, cf. John 1:13; 3:3)

5. The means that the Lord used for your new birth was “*the word of truth*” and this is a reference to the _____ of _____. (v. 18b, cf. Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5)

6. God had a _____ in saving you, because you share the nature of God and are “*a kind of firstfruits of His creatures*” – a higher _____ means a higher _____. (v. 18c, cf. 1 Cor. 15:20-23)

7. Because you are a child of God you can _____ in Christ on a daily basis and bring forth _____ of _____ that are pleasing in His sight. (John 15:1-5; 2 Cor. 9:9-11; Phil. 1:10-11)

* How can you apply this truth in your own life?