

THE WAR WITHIN

James 1:13-18

INTRODUCTION

In this week's passage, we are confronted with the reality of spiritual warfare. Temptation is not random, it is a targeted attack on our trust in God's character and goodness. James reminds us that while God does not tempt us, our own desires can lead us down a path to sin and death. Yet, in the midst of this battle, James points us to the unchanging goodness of God, who is the source of every good and perfect gift.

THIS WEEK:

Discover this week from James 1:13-18 the means and method of fighting the war within.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading James 1:13-18 and then answering the following questions:

1. What does James say about the source of temptation in verse 13?
2. How does James describe the process of temptation in verses 14-15?
3. What is emphasized about God's character in verse 17?
4. What is the significance of verse 18 in understanding our relationship with God?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. How does Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus' temptation in the wilderness) illustrate the devil's strategy to make us doubt God's character?
6. According to 1 Peter 5:8-9, what should we do to resist the devil's temptations?
7. How does Genesis 3:1-6 (the fall of Adam and Eve) relate to the process of temptation described in James 1:14-15?
8. What does Romans 8:28-39 teach us about God's unchanging goodness and love, even when we face temptation and trials?

APPLICATION *Why does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

9. When have you faced a temptation that made you doubt God's goodness or character? How did you respond?
10. Can you recall a time when recognizing the progression of temptation helped you avoid sin? What did you do differently?

11. In what ways has recognizing God as the giver of “every good and perfect gift” (v. 17) changed your perspective during times of temptation or trial?
12. How does the truth that God has chosen us and given us new birth (v. 18) shape your understanding of your identity and purpose?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?