

James 1:13–18 | The temptation of trials

Study Questions from 18.01.2026 sermon

Discuss

- i. Read James 1:13. To help us understand this verse we can insert the following italics: “When we *are* tempted to sin *because of trials*, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’” James knows that when trials come into our lives, they bring a temptation to sin. Discuss in what way(s) might trials bring a temptation to sin.
- ii. Read James 1:14. Which metaphor is James using in this verse? Discuss what it teaches us about how we get tempted to sin.
- iii. Read James 1:15. Which metaphor does James switch to in this verse? Discuss what it teaches us about desire, sin and death.
- iv. Read James 1:16. What deception is James referring to?
- v. Verse 16 is in the centre of the symmetry of the whole passage. Do you see this symmetry? What are the opposites on each side of v16?
- vi. Read James 1:17. James reminds us that God gives us good gifts, not evil gifts. Why does James call God ‘Father of the heavenly lights’ and what does light teach us about God and his gifts?

Pray

Finish by reading v18 and spend some time thanking God for his ultimate good gift: new birth. Also spend some time praying about what you’ve discussed, especially wisdom and help for times of trial.