

Don't BLAME God! ~ James 1:13-18

→ Scripture Reading James 1:13-18

REVIEW

James 1:4 (NIV) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James is encouraging these believers to EMBRACE TRIALS not so much for what they are but for WHAT God sovereignly ACCOMPLISHES through them. Platt

God Does NOT TEMPT Anyone to SIN ~ James 1:13-15

[13] When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

TESTINGS are to be Endured - TEMPTATIONS are to be Resisted. Expositor's

Matthew 6:13 (NIV) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the EVIL ONE

[14] but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. [15] Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

IMPLICATIONS

→ When we Sin we Lose the Joy and the Intimacy in our Relationship with God (not our salvation)

→ God does not ORDAIN sin - it is NEVER His Intention that we GIVE IN to sin

APPLICATION

Excuses we Make for OUR Sin? LASB

- It is the other person's FAULT
- I COULD NOT help it
- Everybody's DOING it
- It was just a MISTAKE
- Nobody is PERFECT
- The devil MADE ME do it
- I did not KNOW it was WRONG
- God is TEMPTING me

TRIALS and TEMPTATIONS are both inevitable, and God intends BOTH to deepen our FAITH. Sometimes we face TRIALS on the outside, and sometimes we face TEMPTATIONS on the inside, and HOW we understand them and RESPOND to them has everything to do with our FAITH. CCE

Blaming the gods was typical of the pagan mind-set. The Greek and Roman gods were fickle, erratic, vengeful, soap-opera kind of deities who Taunted and Tantalized humanity. Hughes

Matthew 15:19 (NIV) For OUT of the HEART come EVIL thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Romans 6:13 (NIV) Do not OFFER the parts of your body TO SIN, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from DEATH to LIFE; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

God GIVES ONLY Good Gifts ~ James 1:16-18

[16] Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

Do not be DECEIVED about the Source of TEMPTATION -or- the GOODNESS of God

[17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. [18] He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

James tells us CLEARLY that...

- God IS GOOD and Every Good GIFT comes FROM Him
- God is NEVER the SOURCE of Temptation or Evil

APPLICATION

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is COMMON to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Paul Tells us that...

- Our Temptation is not UNIQUE
- God is FAITHFUL
- God Knows Our LIMITATIONS
- God ALWAYS Provides a Way of ESCAPE

FINDING the Escape God Provides?

- TURN AWAY From the Temptation
- Do not FOCUS on the Sinful DESIRES
- Ask God for HELP and STRENGTH
- Take the ESCAPE

TAKE AWAY ??

WHAT Should we Do WHEN we are TEMPTED? P. Apple

- Do not BLAME God
- Remember WHERE Temptation Leads You
- Turn AWAY from Temptation
- Thank God for the ESCAPE