

HOLDING FAST TO GOD'S SOVEREIGN GOODNESS

James 1:13-18 // August 17, 2025 PM

We must resist the temptation to deny God's sovereign goodness in the midst of our exilic trials.

I. God is *not* the *devious* author of *sin* (vv. 13-15).

II. God is the *generous* author of *salvation* (vv. 16-18).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is the problem of evil? Is it a problem?
2. Can you give specific examples of ways we can blame God, either directly or indirectly, for our sin? Why is it always wrong to do this?
3. What is the difference between testing and tempting? How are they related? And where does each come from?
4. What does James teach us about desires? How do the metaphors of fishing (v. 14) and giving birth (v. 15) help us understand the nature of sinful desires?
5. What does it mean for God to be "the Father of lights"? Why would James draw our attention to this here?
6. Is it our own will that leads us to be born again? If not, whose will does?
7. How does God's work of speaking the original creation into existence give us a picture of how He works new creation in us? What does this teach us about the role of the Bible in our salvation?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. How am I specifically tempted to directly or indirectly blame God for my sin?
2. How have trials in the recent past tempted me to doubt God's sovereign goodness? How does James' teaching here help me in the fight of faith?
3. How would I describe "the marrow of Calvinism"? Do I agree with Pastor Nick's assessment? If so, how does that change my approach to trials and temptations?