

Sermon: Overcoming Temptation and Sin By Faith.
Series: James: Real Wisdom, Real Faith.

Scripture: James 1:13-18.
Date: October 3, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Can you identify where/how you are tempted on a daily basis? How would you fill in this blank: "I will be happy when _____." OR "If I could just _____ my life would be better?"

b) In what ways are you possibly being deceived when you are tempted - 1) blaming God, 2) blaming others, or 3) trying to make your own "good?"

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) This passage includes some of the most important truths about God. Make a list of those truths together as a group. Which of these truths do you struggle to understand/believe? Which ones encourage you?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How does verse 17 point your heart to Jesus? Salvation? The Spirit?

b) How does James 1:18 reveal God's grace and our position in Christ? How can knowing that we are the "first fruit" of a coming harvest of all that is good satisfy our desires today and help us to overcome temptations?

APPLICATION

a) We said that we overcome sin by fighting desire with a greater desire for Jesus. Have you ever been able to use this truth in your own personal battle with temptation and sin? How or where?

b) Can you see evidence of our new desire (new heart) in yourself? In each other? Where?

c) How can you begin to cultivate a deeper desire for Jesus that can overwhelm your desire for sin and lesser "goods?" (Hint: Take a look at James 1:19-25.)

FIGHTER VERSES: James 2:14-17.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his good gifts especially the gift of Jesus and making you his first fruit.
- Confess ways that you have blamed God or others in temptation.
- Thank Jesus for giving us his own desires so that we can overcome temptation.