

LESSON 7.2: FALSEHOOD

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:2-18

SUMMARY:

Much of the pain and suffering in this life is a result of humans abusing their free will. While free will enables a great amount of evil, it also allows true love. God wants us to freely choose to love and obey Him.

It is easy for us to blame God, or dismiss Him altogether, when we experience suffering. However, in this week's reading students learned that ... *God cannot be tempted by evil ... (James 1:13)*. God is not merely all-powerful

(omnipotent). God is also all-good (omnibenevolent). For God to *be tempted by evil* would contradict His holy and perfect nature, which is impossible. He also cannot tempt humans with evil. That, too, would contradict His character.

Thus, just as the notion of an all-good, all-powerful God committing evil is a logical contradiction, so is an all-powerful God preventing free humans from committing evil, which in turn causes suffering.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- Where or when have you experienced or seen others experience suffering?
- What has the suffering you've seen or experienced taught you about God?
- What other logical inaccuracies have you heard about the character or existence of God?
- Describe your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?