



SCRIPTURE: James

SERIES: The Book of James

TITLE: Gospel Endurance

BIG IDEA: Trials grow us and although they are not brought about by God, in enduring them, God will bring about His intended purposes.

TEXT

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Jas 1:12–18.

1. GOD'S PURPOSE IS NOT TO SAVE US FROM EVERY DIFFICULTY, BUT TO GROW US AS WE WALK THROUGH THEM.

Application Question: What spiritual maturity is being brought about through your current difficulties?

- Why is it easier to pray that circumstances change than it is to pray for us to have strength to endure them?
- In what nonspiritual ways does growth come with difficulty?
 - o Why do you think there is such great overlap spiritually?
- Why do you think God intentionally leaves us in certain difficult situations?
- How do we see this concept reflected in Biblical parenting with our children?

2. TESTING AND TEMPTATION ARE DIFFERENT THINGS, AND WE NEED ENDURANCE FOR BOTH.

Application Question: Have I blamed God for the consequences of my own sins?

- What is the difference in temptation and testing?
 - o Why is this distinction so important?
- What are the dangers of confusing these?
- In what ways does temptation grow Gospel endurance?
- How does testing grow Gospel endurance?

3. GOD GIVES PERFECT GIFTS, BUT WE MAY NOT LIKE THE WRAPPING PAPER.

Application Question: How can I look at my circumstances as opportunities for endurance and growth?

- What are some things you have walked through and experienced spiritual growth as a result of, but weren't pleasant at the time?
- Why is it comforting to know that God doesn't change?
- What does it mean that He brought us forth by His will?
- How does the Gospel embody this concept?