

JAMES

GENUINE FAITH ON DISPLAY

GENUINE FAITH CONSIDERS TRIALS AS JOY:
DISTINGUISH ACCURATELY BETWEEN
TRIALS AND TEMPTATION – PT. 2

JAMES 1:16-18

THINKING RIGHTLY REGARDING TRIALS

JAMES 1:2-4

²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

PRAY EXPECTANTLY DURING TRIALS

JAMES 1:5-8

⁵But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE DURING TRIALS

JAMES 1:9-12

⁹But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; ¹⁰and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. ¹¹For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away. ¹²Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

DISTINGUISH ACCURATELY BETWEEN TRIALS AND TEMPTATION (PT. 1)

JAMES 1:13-15

¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

DISTINGUISH ACCURATELY BETWEEN TRIALS AND TEMPTATION (PT. 2)

JAMES 1:16-18

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. ¹⁸In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

1. BEWARE OF WRONG THINKING (V.16)

James 1:16 – Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

“**my beloved brethren**” – only stated this way here and in 1:19 and 2:5

- expression of love and deep concern

“**be deceived**” – to be led astray or to be caused to wander

- only imperative in these verses

James is deeply concerned about the danger of wrong thinking.

The mind is the primary battleground in the Christian life.

Matthew 22:37 – And He said to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’

Romans 12:2 – And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 4:8 – Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Questions to ask when facing a painful trial:

→ **What do I feel?**

→ **What do I think?**

→ **What do I believe?**

2. BE AWARE OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES (V.17)

James 1:17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

A. God's goodness is infinite

- “every good thing given” – has a suffix of action; points to the act of giving
- “every perfect gift” – has a suffix of result; points to the gift itself

Can be translated: *Every good giving and every perfect gift*

- **Note: Not only is God's giving good and His gifts perfect, but every good thing that has ever been given is ultimately from Him!**

“When others behave badly to us, it should only stir us up the more heartily to give thanks unto the Lord because he is good; and when we ourselves are conscious that we are far from being good, we should only the more reverently bless him that “he is good.” We must never tolerate an instant’s unbelief as to the goodness of the Lord; whatever else may be questionable, this is absolutely certain, that Jehovah is good.”

— Charles Spurgeon



James 1:17 – . . . coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

B. God's immutability is permanent

- “the Father of lights” – a reference to God, the creator of all light
- “with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow” – a reference to the changing nature of light in the sun, moon, and stars

While the light from these sources is perpetually changing, there is no variation or shifting shadow with God!

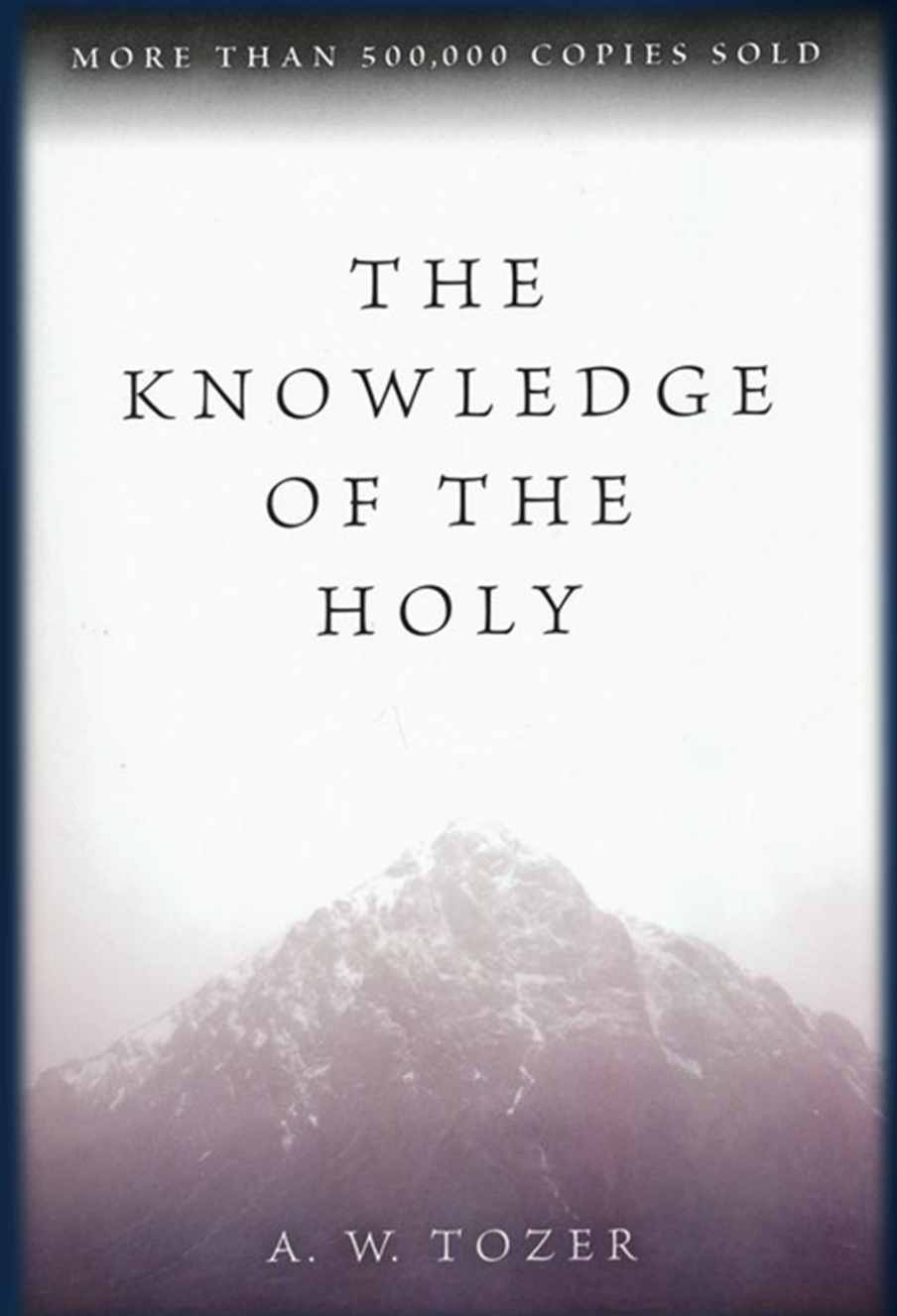
Immutability of God: “God’s immutability is his perfect unchangeability in his essence, character, purpose, and promises.” — Biblical Doctrine

- **Psalms 102:25–27** – ²⁵“Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶“Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. ²⁷“**But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.**
- **Malachi 3:6** – “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Taken together, we know that God is unchangeably good!

“Divine goodness, as one of God’s attributes, is self-caused, infinite, perfect, and eternal. Since God is immutable He never varies in the intensity of His loving-kindness. He has never been kinder than He now is, nor will He ever be less kind. He is no respecter of persons but makes His sun to shine on the evil as well as on the good, and sends His rain on the just and on the unjust. The cause of His goodness is in Himself, the recipients of His goodness are all His beneficiaries without merit and without recompense.”

— A.W. Tozer



3. BE AWARE OF GOD'S ACTIONS (V.18)

James 1:18 – In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

A. God's unchanging goodness seen in our salvation

- “In the exercise of His will” – to chose or to decide.
- “He brought us forth” – to give birth or to bring forth.
- “by the word of truth” – a reference to the gospel.
 - **Colossians 1:5** – . . . the word of truth, the gospel
 - **Ephesians 1:13** – In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation

“When he decided, He gave birth to us by the word of truth.”

Salvation is a work of God, not man.

- **Ephesians 1:4** – just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.
 - **Romans 8:29** – For those whom He foreknew, **He also predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son . . .
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:13** – . . . **God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
- **James' point here is that God's goodness is shown in our salvation. This only makes sense when we understand that salvation is a work of God! Since it is His work, it is a display of His goodness!**

B. God's unchanging goodness seen in God's ongoing salvation

James 1:18 – . . . so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

- “**first fruits**” – a term found in the Law where the first portion of a harvest is to be offered to God as a sacrifice before the rest could be used for ordinary purposes (Exod. 23:19; Lev 23:9–11; Deut. 18:4). The first fruits were a way of saying that there was more to come!
- “**among His creatures**” – literally “creations” this includes the future salvation of others as well.

APPLICATION

- **Win the battle of the mind in thinking rightly regarding trials.**
- **If you are saved, regularly praise God for His goodness in your life!**
- **If you are uncertain about your salvation, speak to someone today.**