

The Mess of Trials and God's Goodness

James 1:13-18

If you want to be blessed and not crushed by your trials you need to own up to your sinful desires and cling to God's goodness.

James 1:13 No one undergoing a trial should say, "I am being tempted by God," since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn't tempt anyone. (CSB)

1. Realize that every trial is a temptation

[James] has been teaching us that trials are blessings, in that they lead forward to maturity and the crown. But they do not do this by some inherent power of their own. Everything depends on our response and the use we make of our circumstances.¹

2. Don't blame shift, but own up to your sinful desires

Temptation always carries with it some bait that appeals to our natural desires. The bait not only attracts us, but it also hides the fact that yielding to the desire will eventually bring sorrow and punishment. It is the bait that is the exciting thing.²

Therefore our battle against lust consists in keeping it from conceiving and giving birth to sin.³

3. Always cling to God's goodness

Philo, the first-century Jewish philosopher: "Every created thing must necessarily undergo change, for this is its property, even as unchangeableness is the property of God"

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¹ J. A. Motyer, *The Message of James: The Tests of Faith, The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 50.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 342.

³ Gerald Bray, ed., *James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 12.