

Truth to Remember When Hard Times Come

September 27, 2026

Bible Passage: James 1:16-18

"16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every 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. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

Big Idea: Our hope doesn't depend on the fickle sway of _____ but on the solid rock called _____.

Fighter Memory Verse

SEPTEMBER

Psalm 19:7-8

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Three Truths to Remember:

#1-Remember God's _____ for you. (v. 16)

- Greek word for "deceived" – planasthe – do not be misled, do not err or stop wandering/straying
- Romans 5:8 - *"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- Romans 8:38-39 - *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

#2-Remember God's _____. (v. 17)

- Hebrews 13:8 - *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

#3-Remember God's _____. (v. 18)

- Greek word for "brought us forth" – apekuesen – to give birth to...to bring forth from the womb or to procreate

TRUTH INTO ACTION

- When you feel completely isolated and forgotten, remember His love - you are His *beloved* child, and the cross proves it.
- When you feel deprived, confused and empty, remember His unchanging goodness - He is the *Father of lights* who does not shift or cast a shadow.
- When you feel overwhelmed by your own failures or the weight of a broken world, remember His grace - He chose you of His own will and gave you new, eternal life

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

This lesson is a follow up to the sermon. Please take the time this week to work through it in your community group or around your own kitchen table.

Read James 1:16-18

1. To what is your hope anchored right now? What are some of the temporary or shifting “anchors” (finances, health, relationships, etc.) we rely on instead of God, and how can we spot when we are doing this?
2. Our spiritual stability is often directly tied to how our week went. How have you seen a sudden shift in your external circumstances – like a stressful bill or sudden tension – unexpectedly impact your perspective on God’s presence?
3. When storms hit, it is common to wonder, “Where is God? Does He truly care? Why is He letting this happen to me?” Why do you think hard times tempt us to doubt God’s goodness or feel like He has abandoned us?
4. In James 1:16, James warns, *“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.”* In the middle of suffering, persecution or financial hardship, what kind of deceptions or lies about God’s character are we most vulnerable to believing?
5. James 1:17 states that every good and perfect gift is from above. How does intentionally identifying and giving thanks for the “good gifts” in our lives change our perspective when we are in a season of waiting or pain?
6. How can we, as a “Faith Family,” better support one another when someone feels like the rug is being pulled out from under them?

Prayer: Thank you for loving me and using the hard stuff of life to grow my spiritual maturity. Help me to remember Your love, unchanging goodness and grace even when “in the valley.” In Jesus sweet name, Amen!

RESOURCES:

James for You by Sam Allberry

Christ-Centered Exposition in James by David Platt, Danny Akin & Tony Merida

James New Testament Commentary by Bruce Barton