

Living Faith ~ Pastor Alex Perednia ~ September 17, 2017

**#2 FAITHBOOK ~ A Persevering Faith?** (James 1:12-18)

Examining what the book of James (*Faithbook*) teaches us about what faith is and how to strengthen it.

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Opening: In a recent trial or temptation, what emoji best describes your reaction?

- I. Our faith will be challenged by various trials and temptations. (1:2)
  - A. There are *trials* that come from **WITHOUT** -- involving the circumstances and people around us. (James 1:1b, 9-11; 2:1, 15; 5:4-7, 10, 13-14)
  - B. There are *temptations* that come from **WITHIN** -- involving the evil desires within us. (James 1:13-15; 3:6; 4:1)
    1. Straight talk about the **RESPONSIBILITY** for temptation (1:13-14a)
    2. Getting ready to battle the **CYCLE** of temptation. (1:14b-15)
- II. God has a plan to develop in us a persevering faith in the face of various trials and temptations. (James 1:12, 16-18)
  - A. Our faith has a **STARTING** point in God's good promises to us. (1:16-18)
  - B. Our faith has an **ENDING** point in God's good promises to us. (1:12)

**BIG IDEA:** *God has a plan to develop in us a persevering faith in the face of the trials and temptations of life.*



**CONNECTION GROUPS** at Living Faith  
Sermon-based Group  
Wednesday, Sept. 20 @ 2PM and 7PM

1. Can you think of an *emoji* that best describes a recent trial or temptation?
2. Watch this study of James 1:13-18 by Francis Chan: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/159923#2>
3. In light of James 1:13-15, how would you respond to some of these myths of temptation:  
    “God is tempting me.”  
    “The Devil made me do it.”  
    “When I am a strong Christian, temptation won’t be a problem anymore.”
4. What is the “cycle of temptation” according to 1:14-15? Where do “evil desire” come from? How is temptation like fishing? What are the outcomes if the cycle of temptation continues? What is the final result if the cycle continues? What examples could you give?
5. An Irishman, Oscar Wilde humorously wrote: “*The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it... I can resist everything but temptation.*” But, temptation is no joke! What do these verses teach us about overcoming temptation: Matt 6:13; 1 Tim 6:11-12; James 4:7; 1 Cor 10:13; Gal. 5:16; and Eph 6:13-18
6. What is the extent of God’s commitment to us so that we can have a persevering faith? How is the starting point of our faith described (1:16-18)? How is the ending point of our faith described (1:12)? Why is this important to remember that God oversees the beginning and end of our life of faith?

MEMORY VERSE: James 1:12