

Bible Study 5 – God’s goodness – James 1:16-18

There are many con artists in Nigeria who email gullible Americans, promising to send them millions of dollars if they will send them their bank account numbers. Believers going through trials are especially vulnerable to spiritual con artists. They say, “If your God is good and powerful, then why did He allow you to go through this terrible tragedy? Either He is not very good, or He is not able to stop such trials.” Usually, along with that line of thinking, they direct your attention to people in the world, who do not follow God, but whose lives are going very well. If you take the bait, you will not persevere in your trials.

The context	James was a prominent elder at the original church at Jerusalem. This letter was written in about AD 46 to Jewish Christians who had been scattered by persecution (1:1; 8:1; 11:19). It refers to their trials and oppression. The theme is that Christian faith expresses itself in a life of godliness. His first topic is persevering through trials and temptations.
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PART 1 Read & summarise each section – James 1:16-18

God’s gifts (v.16-17a)	
God’s unchangeable (v.17b)	
The means of salvation (v.18a)	
First of many others (v.18b)	

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage

1. What I learnt about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

2. What I learnt about people like us.

3. Summarise a key verse in your own words.

4. In your opinion, what are the most important biblical principles being taught?

5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?

6. What are some ways we be deceived about the sources of sin (v.13-15) or goodness (v.17-18) in our lives?

7. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?

In our trials, we can resist Satan by recognising God’s blessings, particularly our salvation.



Obey

Since God's word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?
What must I do to obey?

I will
I will
I will

Questions to help me apply this study to myself

- Is there a *SIN* for me to avoid?
- Is there a *PROMISE* from God for me to claim?
- Is there an *EXAMPLE* for me to follow?
- Is there a *COMMANDMENT* or *MODEL* for me to follow?

Share

Who will I tell about this Bible passage?

Prayer

Date:

One thing you are thankful for.

One thing that's bothering you.

Is there anything this group can do to help you?

Person	Prayer points

Who needs help? What can we do to help over the next two weeks?

Person	How will I help them?

