

## **Week 2 – James 1:12-18 Questions to Consider**

### **1. Reward for Those Who Endure (1:12)**

- What is the reward that James promises will come to those who steadfastly endure trials? Can you think of other passages of Scripture that point to similar rewards?
- How should the promise of reward for endurance motivate us in our walk with Christ?

### **2. The Process of Temptation (1:13–15)**

- Financial struggle, for example, leads us to distrust God. Stress tempts us to be selfish. Name some specific trials that you have experienced, and consider the sins that you were tempted to fall into because of those trials.
- The Bible teaches that God often, in his providence,<sup>1</sup> ordains that his people should face trials. What passages of Scripture teach that truth? What stories in the Bible illustrate it?
- If God sometimes ordains that his people will face trials, what then is James saying in verse 13 that God does *not* do? (Hint: there is a difference between trial and temptation! See the note on verse 13 in the *ESV Study Bible*.)
- The second metaphor James uses is one of conception and birth. What does it mean for a desire to “conceive?”
- When once we act on our evil desires and give birth to sin, what does James say is the end result after sin “is fully grown?”

### **3. God’s Goodness and Faithfulness (1:16–18)**

- Why does James turn in verse 16 to talk about God’s goodness and faithfulness? What are his readers in danger of deceiving themselves about, with particular reference to their trials and the temptations that come with them?
- With what do you think James is contrasting God when he says that “with [him] there is no variation or shadow due to change?”
- Read John 3:1–6. Where did James get this idea of Christians having been “brought forth?”
- If we are brought forth “by the word of truth,” do you think it’s possible for a person to be saved apart from the gospel? James’s point in verse 18 is to show his readers that God is good and that he gives good gifts. How does his example of the gift of regeneration<sup>2</sup> accomplish that goal? (Read Romans 8:32. James is using the same kind of reasoning.)