

UNDERSTANDING TEMPTATION

James 1

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How do you define temptation? Where do you believe temptation comes from?
- Reflect on a past experience of trial in your life. Did it affect your faith? Are you a changed person because of it?

The book of James seems to contradict Paul's declaration of salvation by grace by faith alone, but in this Groundwork discussion we'll discover together why the letter James writes is less a gospel declaration than an answer to the question, "I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord...now what?" In studying this first chapter of James, we focus on living our faith and understanding the important difference between trials and temptations when it comes to how God works in our lives.

Reflection

- What is your natural reaction and attitude during difficult times? How does that compare to what James encourages? What changes might you make?
- Why is the Rule of Faith helpful in understanding the book of James? Are there other passages that confuse you? Might you try applying the Rule of Faith to them for greater understanding?
- Consider a few times you've struggled in life and honestly assess them. Were they trials or temptations? How can recognizing this difference help you in the future?
- How are you changed because of God's grace? If someone watched you for a day, would your actions and speech accurately reflect that change in you and what you now believe?

Related Passages

- **Genesis 22:1-19**
- **1 Peter 1:3-9**
- **Romans 5:1-5**
- **Luke 11:28**

Conclusion

Read Psalm 27, consider memorizing a few verses or the whole passage. Make a list of other passages that remind you of your faith in times of trial or adversity. Revisit these passages often and ask the Lord to make these the words that comes to mind first when you experience rough or difficult times in life.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/understanding-temptation>

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