

THE BOOK OF JAMES

FAITH IN THE FLESH



WEEK 3

FIRST COMES DESIRE, THEN COMES DECEPTION

DISCOVER: Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of His truth for your life. **Study** the text and take some time during your own personal study to **ask** these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3, how will I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: James 1:12-18

NURTURE: Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study. Let the Spirit lead you to **repentance** and **belief** in the gospel as you work through this passage.

1. *"God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one."* Why is it that God is free from temptation? Have you ever blamed a temptation you've faced on God?
2. *"Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."* Are all desires bad? What is it you are desiring right now in life? For your kids/spouse? At work? etc. How might these desires tempt you toward sin?

3. What are the desires underneath those desires? (eg. *the desire for a raise might be due to a deeper need for security and provision, or it might be from my longing to feel important and approved by others*)

4. How can you “*take every thought captive*” (2 Cor. 10:5) so those good desires might lead to life rather than sin and death? Which of the eternal truths do you need to believe? **(God is Good, God is Glorious, God is Great, God is Gracious)**

5. What does it mean that the Father brought us “*forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures*”? How do we live that out?

What lies are the Spirit asking you to **repent (“turn away”) from? What surface desires are you pursuing in the flesh that need to be redirected in the Spirit? The call to **believe** is to remind ourselves of God’s good, great, glorious, and gracious nature. “*Do not be deceived. Every good gift is from the Father.*” Take some time to speak to one another how God is the One who meets the specific desires that were mentioned.**

ACT: In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs? **Listen** and **obey** the Spirit as he calls us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Consider these questions:

1. How will you practically remind yourself and others of the four eternal truths this week? **(God is Good, God is Glorious, God is Great, God is Gracious)**

2. How will you lean into the Spirit, God’s word and your MC and/or DNA this week to fight temptation and evil desires in your life?

What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?