

**IN THE FIRE – PART III**  
**“God is Not the Problem”**  
**James 1:13-18**

---

When going through difficult times we might lose our perspective and think that the source of our problems is God. We may conclude that God has an axe to grind with me and is punishing me. This thought is contrary to the teaching of Scripture. When we experience trials the way we respond to them is up to us. We can be faithful or we can make the wrong choices and be sinful. The responsibility is solely on us. Today’s teaching will explain how each person is responsible for the choices they make.

---

**#1. THE CORRECT VIEW OF GOD – HE DOES NOT \_\_\_\_\_  
US TO SIN, v. 13**

- A. God can’t be tempted by evil
- B. God does not tempt anybody to sin
- C. God tests our faith to strengthen us
- D. God is not the Tempter Satan is, Mat 4:3, 1 Thess 3:5

**#2. THE CORRECT VIEW OF HUMANITY - TEMPTATION  
ORIGINATES WITHIN EACH \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 14-15**

- A. Temptation stems from our evil desires (flesh)
- B. Temptation is common to all humanity, 1 Cor 10:13
- C. Temptation: Dragged away & enticed – a fishing metaphor
- D. Temptation is not a sin
- E. Temptation has a lifecycle – An illustration, v. 15
  - Step 1 – desire conceives
  - Step 2 – birth to sin
  - Step 3 – Sin is full-grown
  - Step 4 – Sin gives birth to death

©Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD, October 17, 2021

**Human lifecycle**

Conception – Gestation – Birth – Growth – Death

**Sins Lifecycle**

Desire (Temptation) – Sin is Conceived – Sin is Born, Sin becomes full grown - Death

**#3. THE CORRECT VIEW OF GOD PREVENTS \_\_\_\_\_, v. 16**

- A. Assigning temptation to God is a deception
- B. Spiritual deception is a characteristic of the age

**#4. THE CORRECT VIEW OF GOD – HE IS THE GIVER OF ONLY  
\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ GIFTS, v. 17**

- A. God is a benevolent Father, Mat 7:11
- B. Gifts include the trials you endure, Jam 1:1-8

**#5. THE CORRECT VIEW OF GOD - GOD NEVER \_\_\_\_\_, v. 17**

- A. God is consistent, Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8
- B. God doesn’t change like the heavenly bodies
- C. God always has good intentions for us – God is good!

**#6. THE CORRECT VIEW OF GOD - GOD’S GOODNESS IS  
DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE \_\_\_\_\_, v. 18**

- A. The word of truth is the gospel
- B. The new birth occurs through faith, John 3:3, 5, Titus 3:5
- C. The people James wrote to are the firstfruits, 1 Cor 16:15

**NOTES:**

**ANSWERS:** Tempt, Person, Deception, Good, Perfect, Changes, Gospel.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What are some excuses that people set forth about committing sin?
- #2. Explain the difference between being tested (James 1:3) and being tempted (James 1:14).
- #3. Explain how James describes the origin of sin.
- #4. How do we resist the temptation to sin? 1 Corinthians 10:14
- #5. Compare the lifecycle of sin and a human being.
- #6. What is the danger of having an incorrect understanding of God, or being deceived about the nature of God?
- #7. Explain how a trial that comes into our life may be a good and perfect gift from God?
- #8. Discuss the reason(s) why believers can take comfort in the fact that God never changes. (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8)
- #9. Discuss the reasons why the new birth is the greatest demonstration of God's goodness.
- #10. What did James mean by calling his readers the "firstfruits"? (v. 18)
- #11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

# ***Welcome To Hillcrest Church!***

***GIVING GOD OUR BEST – 2021!***

***Every good and perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of  
the heavenly lights, who does  
not change like shifting shadows.***

*James 1:17*

***October 17, 2021***

***Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TRUNK OR TREAT - HALLOWEEN OUTREACH**

Hillcrest Church is having our FALL FESTIVAL, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 - 8:00. We will have Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, candy, prizes and food. Invite your friends to stop in.

### **CANDY DONATIONS**

One way everyone can support the Halloween outreach is to donate plenty of candy. You can drop off your candy in the designated area by the kitchen.

### **JOIN US ONLINE FOR**

Tuesday Bible study at 6:30, Wednesday study & Prayer at 6:30. [Click the "online meeting room" link on the home page of the website Hillcrestroseville.com](#)

### **YOGA FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Pastor Bruce is a certified Yoga instructor and will be offering a class every Saturday at 10:00 and another class during the week. Bring a friend. Time to be announced

### **HELP WITH MEDIA**

If you would like to help with the sound system and/or media please let Aaron, Johanna, or DJ know and we can train you.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)). Thank you for supporting the gospel ministry of Hillcrest Church.

### **FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

More changes are coming in the transformation of our facility.