

Perfect Gifts > James 1:9-18

1:9-11 *Wealth and poverty.* James introduces the third major theme of his letter: possessions and status, whether a lot in the world's eyes, or a little. The shocking truth comes in the reversal of what we might be tempted to think: both the poor and the rich are called to reflect Jesus, and each in a way that is the opposite of what the world normally assumes.

1:12-15 *Testing and temptation.* James returns to an earlier theme to explain a deeper point: the Lord is not tempting His people to sin. He tests to build up our faith, but His goal isn't for us to fail. Instead, when we sin, the fault is our own – it's when we let temptation lure into sinful action, that then leads to sin and to the death that sin brings.

1:16-18 *God's gifts for God's people.* Ultimately, God's people are to trust Him for every good and perfect gift. What the Lord offers to us is precisely what we need to be found faithful and to enjoy His eternal promises.

The Point: Whatever your circumstances or trials, respond by trusting the Father and following the pattern of Jesus.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach us to trust you, believing that your ways – even your tests, even the lot in life you have given to each of us – are truly and gloriously best. Make us satisfied in Christ that we would follow Him faithfully.

Application: Serve the Lord in all circumstances. Hold firm under trial – a reward is coming! Trust in the Lord's plans for His people – all that He does is good.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
