

Discussion Questions

- How is a person blessed who perseveres under trial?
- How can you persevere during trials?
- How can you help others persevere in the midst of trials?
- What is the crown of life?
- Why do you think James includes this reminder about God and temptation here in the middle of his discussion on trials?
- What is the difference between trials and temptations?
- If temptation doesn't come from God, where does it come from?
- Why is it important to know the truth about the results of giving in to temptation?
- How does it help us to know that we ourselves are full of evil desires in our battle against temptation?
- So then, what steps can we take to conquer temptation in our lives?
- Satan wants to tell us that God is keeping us from something good, but what is the truth?
- Is there anything good for us that God doesn't want us to have?
- How does recognizing the goodness of God's character help us in our fight against temptation?
- How does recognizing the goodness of God's character help you persevere under trials?
- What does it mean that the Father of lights has no "variation or shifting shadow"?
- Who took the initiative to save us?
- What does the phrase mean "first fruits among His creatures"?

Cross-References

- **1 Peter 5:10** And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.
- 1 Peter 1:7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.
- **Proverbs 4:23** Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.
- Mark 7:21-22 For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.