

OUR PROVING GROUNDS

REFUSING TO CALL OUR SIN A TRIAL

JAMES 1:13-15

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • November 14 & 15, 2026 • James, week 5 • Msg. 26-38

James 1:13 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.*
14 *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.*
15 *Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*
(ESV)

1. Defend _____ (v.13)

2. Question _____ (v.14)

3. Work _____ (v.15)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Deuteronomy 32:4** and **Isaiah 6:1-3**. Why is it so important, especially amid painful trials, to remember that God is perfectly holy and good, always working toward his righteous purposes in history and in our lives?

2. Read **Genesis 3:12-13**. While Adam and Eve's blame-shifting may seem comical, why is it so dangerous? In what ways have you excused your own sin by blaming someone or something else?

3. Read **Mark 7:21-23** and **Galatians 5:16-17**. How should knowing that the source of temptation is inside you, and not merely around you, change the way you prepare for and respond to temptation?

4. Read **1 Corinthians 10:13**. Consider what our faithful God promises in this verse. What are some practical ways you have seen these promises prove true in the middle of your temptations?

5. Read **1 Peter 2:11** and **Galatians 5:24**. What does a "crucifixion" mindset toward our sinful desires look like in practice, especially when temptations begin to surface?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 25-11 – **The Pains of Testing**
Msg. 18-24 – **Pain & Temptation**
Msg. 10-09 – **The Foundation of our Sanctification**
Msg. 16-04 – **The Fear of Responsibility**
Msg. 16-33 – **Grieving Over the Sinfulness of Sin**
Msg. 07-25–07-32 – **Our Fight With Sin** (an 8-part series on temptation)
Msg. 13-11–13-14 – **Temptation** (a 4-part series on the temptation of Christ)

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Nov. 15th .....Ezk.10-12 & Heb.11:1-19
Nov. 16th .....Ezk.13-15 & Heb.11:20-40
Nov. 17th ..... Ezk.16 & Heb.12
Nov. 18th ..... Ezk.17-19 & Heb.13
Nov. 19th ..... Ezk.20-21 & Jms.1
Nov. 20th ..... Ezk.22-23 & Jms.2
Nov. 21st..... Ezk.24-26 & Jms.3
Nov. 22nd ..... Ezk.27-28 & Jms.4

Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Carson, D. A. ***Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility.*** Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2002.
Carty, Jay. ***Counter Attack: Taking Back Ground Lost to Sin.*** 3rd ed. Yes Ministries, 1988.
Jones, Mark. ***Knowing Sin: Seeing a Neglected Doctrine Through the Eyes of the Puritans.*** Moody Publishers, 2022.
Love, Christopher. ***The Mortified Christian.*** Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1998.
Lundgaard, Kris. ***The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin.*** P&R Publishing, 2023.
Lutzer, Erwin W. ***Living with Your Passions.*** Victor Books, 1983.
MacArthur, John. ***The Vanishing Conscience: Drawing the Line in a No-Fault, Guilt-Free World.*** Word Publishing, 1994.
Owen, John. ***Overcoming Sin and Temptation.*** Edited by Kelly M. Kapic and Justin Taylor. Crossway, 2006.
Packer, J. I. ***A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life.*** Crossway Books, 1994.
_____. ***Rediscovering Holiness.*** Servant Publications, 1999.
Pink, A. W. ***Our Accountability to God.*** Moody Publishers, 1999.
Spurgeon, Charles H. ***A Passion for Holiness in a Believer's Life.*** YWAM Publishing, 1996.
Venning, Ralph. ***The Sinfulness of Sin.*** Banner of Truth, 2022.