

OUR PROVING GROUNDS

HOLDING ON TIGHT TO THE GOODNESS OF GOD

JAMES 1:16-18

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • November 21 & 22, 2026 • James, week 6 • Msg. 26-39

James 1:16 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.* ***17*** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* ***18*** *Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.* *(ESV)*

1. Never _____ (v.16)

2. Affirm _____ (v.17)

3. Anticipate _____ (v.18)

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 **Psalm 77:7-11.** What circumstances most tempt you to question God's favor like this? How does deliberately remembering his past deeds, as the psalmist does, correct that thinking?

2. Read **1 Corinthians 10:9-12**. What do your complaints reveal about your expectations of God, and how might your grumbling subtly call his goodness or wisdom into question?

3. Read **Psalm 16:2**. Which good things in your life do you rarely trace back to God? How would thanking him specifically for them change your outlook during hard seasons?

4. Read **1 Peter 1:23-25**. Why is it essential to rely on God's Word rather than witty tactics or clever persuasion when explaining the gospel, and how should that shape our conversations?

5. Read **Romans 8:19-21**. What changes when you remember that forgiveness and adoption are not the end of God's redemptive work, but the beginning of greater blessings?

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

Msg. 25-07 – **Resting on the Immutable**
Msg. 24-28 – **Clinging to God's Faithful Promises**
Msg. 19-21 – **God Is Good**
Msg. 18-19 – **God's Good Plans**
Msg. 10-19 – **Looking for the Good When Things Go Bad**
Msg. 13-57 – **Regeneration & The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**
Msg. 07-10 – **Reaching Forward with the Hope of a New World**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Nov. 22nd ..... *Ezk.27-28 & Jms.4*
Nov. 23rd ..... *Ezk.29-31 & Jms.5*
Nov. 24th ..... *Ezk.32-33 & 1Pt.1*
Nov. 25th ..... *Ezk.34-35 & 1Pt.2*
Nov. 26th ..... *Ezk.36-37 & 1Pt.3*
Nov. 27th ..... *Ezk.38-39 & 1Pt.4*
Nov. 28th ..... *Ezk.40 & 1Pt.5*
Nov. 29th ..... *Ezk.41-42 & 2Pt.1*

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.

Alcorn, Randy. ***If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil.*** Multnomah Books, 2009.
Bavinck, Herman. ***Saved by Grace: The Holy Spirit's Work in Calling and Regeneration.*** Reformation Heritage, 2013.
Challies, Tim. ***Knowing and Enjoying God.*** Harvest House Publishers, 2021.
DeYoung, Kevin. ***Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible Is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough.*** Crossway, 2014.
Fabarez, Mike. ***The Bible: A Book Like No Other.*** Harvest House Publishers, 2026.
_____. ***Lifelines for Tough Times: God's Presence and Help When You Hurt.*** Harvest House Publishers, 2014.
Griffiths, Jonathan. ***God Alone: His Unique Attributes and How Knowing Them Changes Us.*** Moody Publishers, 2023.
Hutchison, John C. ***Thinking Right When Things Go Wrong.*** Kregel Publications, 2005.
Morgan, Christopher W., and Robert A. Peterson, eds. ***Suffering and the Goodness of God.*** Crossway, 2008.
Ryle, J. C. ***Regeneration.*** Christian Focus Publications, 2007.
Spurgeon, Charles H. ***The Immutability of God.*** CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018.
Thomas, Derek W. H. ***What Is Providence?*** P&R Publishing, 2008.
Watson, Thomas. ***All Things for Good.*** Banner of Truth, 2021.