



OUR UNCHANGING, GIFT-GIVING GOD

July 19, 2026

David Hinkle

JAMES 1:16-18

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.

SUMMARY

James provides two motivations for Christians not to give in to temptation. The first is the truth that succumbing to temptation leads to a destructive, deadly outcome. The second is the goodness and unchanging character of God. Our response to temptation will reveal if we truly believe God is always good and the giver of all the good we could ever want or need.

Malachi 3:6

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."

I. GOD IS UNCHANGING AND ONLY GIVES GOOD GIFTS TO US.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

II. OUR NEW BIRTH THROUGH THE GOSPEL IS HIS GREATEST GIFT.

III. RESPOND TO YOUR GOOD, GIFT-GIVING GOD.

- Reject any lie that God withholds good from you.
- Never get over the gift of your new life in Christ.
- Share the gift of the gospel with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something you have read recently in the Bible that has encouraged you?
 2. Read James 1:16-18. Why do you think James begins with the warning, "Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers"?
 3. What characteristics of God are highlighted in verses 17-18?
 4. Why does James call God "the Father of lights"? What does that title communicate in the context of His goodness and unchanging nature?
 5. James says there is "no variation or shadow due to change" in God. How is God's unchanging character a source of comfort during trials?
 6. What does James mean when he says believers are "a kind of firstfruits of his creatures"? What does that reveal about our identity and God's purposes?
 7. What are some common lies that tempt us to doubt God's goodness today?
 8. How does remembering that God never changes help you trust Him when your circumstances do?
 9. James reminds us that God gave us new life by His own will. How should that truth shape your humility, gratitude, and confidence as a Christian?
 10. Which truth in verses 16-18 do you most need to remember this week, and why?
- To listen to this or any other sermon, visit tomballbible.church/sermons.