

Avoiding Deception in Trials  
Grace Church  
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James 1:16-18

Believers going through trials are especially vulnerable to spiritual con artists.

James wants us to avoid some common pitfalls so that we will persevere under trials and receive the crown of life.

- I. When you go through trials, you are especially vulnerable to deception (1:16).
  - A. He addresses his readers as “beloved brethren.”
  - B. “Do not be deceived” is literally, “Stop being deceived.”

1. James reminds them that God is both good and sovereign.
2. God sends trials for His own sovereign, loving purposes.
3. So the “good gifts” that God sends may include extremely difficult trials.

II. To avoid deception in trials, affirm God’s goodness (1:17).

- A. When Satan originally tempted and deceived Eve, he did it by getting her to doubt God’s goodness.
- B. All good things come to us from a God whose very nature is good.
- C. This is the only time that God is called, “the Father of lights.”

D. This has two practical applications:

1. Understanding God's attributes as revealed in His Word is essential for your spiritual well being.
2. Interpreting your circumstances in light of God's attributes is essential for your spiritual well being.

III. To avoid deception in trials, affirm God's sovereign goodness, especially as seen in your salvation (1:18).

A. James affirms God's sovereignty in salvation as the bedrock truth to get you through your trials.

B. Since salvation is totally from God's will and power, He will care for you through every trial. *James 1:18*

C. We are to be the firstfruits. *James 1:18*

- Especially in trials, your aim should be to bear fruit for Him and to bring glory to His name.

#### IV. Conclusion:

- A. Joseph is one of the best illustrations of someone in severe trials affirming both God's goodness and His sovereignty.
- B. In trials, you can resist Satan, by holding firmly to God's goodness and His sovereignty, especially as seen in your salvation.



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