

UNCHANGING GOD IN AN EVER-CHANGING CULTURE JAMES 1:17

OUR UNCHANGING GOD (IMMUTABILITY)

OVERVIEW OF JAMES 1:2-11

1. Purpose of Trials in Our Lives - Potential (2-4)
2. Praying for Wisdom - Faithfully (5-8)
3. Perspective on Riches and Poverty (9-11)

In James 1:12-27 the three themes in the first 11 verses are restated (Trials, Wisdom, Riches and Poverty)

OVERVIEW OF JAMES 1:12-18

Trials and Temptations in Relation to God (12-18)

1. Proverb concerning God's goodness in testing (12)
2. Insight into God's non-participation in temptations (13-16)
3. Spotlight on our Unchanging God (17-18)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read James 2:1-4. Do you see the potential for growth in the trials of your life? Discuss.
2. Read James 2:5-8. Is praying for wisdom a habit for you? Explain.
3. Read this Quote by Ravi Zacharias: "When God is our Holy Father, his immutability does not terrify us; this attribute of God leaves us full of awe and gratitude . . . immutability is only torturous if there is no guarantee of goodwill." When you think about our unchanging God, does it bring you peace because you know He loves you and that His love for you will never change? Discuss.

Long ago . . .
you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish,
but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
You will change them like a robe,
and they will pass away,
²⁷ but you are the same,
and your years have no end.

²⁸ The children of your servants
shall dwell secure;
their offspring shall be established
before you.

Psalm 102-25:28

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

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. 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.

James 1:12-18