

Faith and Temptations

James 1:13-18

Authentic faith understands that God will sometimes permit difficult circumstances in our lives wherein we are tempted to rebel against Him. He already knows our hearts. We are the ones who need _____.

Discussion 1. Jesus taught us to talk with God explicitly about our temptations and ask Him to help us avoid them. Do you find that helpful? Why or why not?

At the heart of most of our sin is a good, God-given _____ being met in a rebellious, ungodly way. Authentic faith trusts the ways God prescribes for us to fulfill our desires, as our own ways lead to death and destruction.

Discussion 2. Why are we ever inclined to blame God for our sinful choices? What benefit do we derive from that? How does walking in community with other Christ followers help us avoid that?

Authentic faith rests solidly on some foundational truths about God: He is _____. He is sovereign. He is loving. And He is immutable. These truths alone should get us through most of our trials and temptations.

Discussion 3. God cannot be changed. Does that encourage you or discourage you? Explain your answer.

Authentic faith does not define us by our past sins; rather, it hopes and _____ in the person we know God created us to become.

Discussion 4. Who in your life helped you begin to have a vision for the person God created you to become? How does keeping that vision in front of you help you?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?