

## “Living on Top of the Heap when You’re Under the Pile”

### James 1:12-18

#### Discussion Questions

**Note:** To give & receive the greatest benefit from this discussion, please review your own sermon notes, read & reflect on these discussion questions in advance.

1. Have people read **James 1:12** from different translations i.e. ESV, NIV, Living, etc.

- \* What is the most challenging trial you’ve had to endure i.e. education, work, diet, exercise, military, illness, church, quarantine, etc.
- \* What actions or attitudes helped you to see it through i.e. one step at a time, resisting self-pity, anticipating relief, moral support, etc?
- \* What benefits or rewards came from this experience?

2. Someone read **James 1:13-16**.

- \* Review the differences between trials & temptations.

***Trials** are allowed or designed by God to test and strengthen our faith.*

***Temptations** are designed by Satan to weaken and destroy our faith.*

***Trials** are usually external circumstances or physical challenges.*

***Temptations** are usually internal struggles or spiritual battles.*

***Trials** are circumstances over which we have little or no control.*

***Temptations** involve options and choices over which we do have some control.*

- \* Assuming the pandemic & quarantine to be trials, what guidance does this passage provide?
- \* What are some temptations which have emerged from this big trial i.e. blaming God, excusing sinful or hurtful behavior, neglecting spiritual disciplines, etc?

3. Someone read **James 1:17-18**.

- \* As a group, list some things (God’s good & perfect gifts) for which you are especially grateful during this pandemic & quarantine?
- \* Read or sing together the lyrics to “**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**.”

***Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see: all I have needed thy hand hath provided--Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their  
courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great  
faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer  
and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings  
all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

\* Engage in some group prayer that we will **Hold Tough** during this trial, **Hold Out**  
in the face of temptation and **Hold On** to treasures God is providing.