

James 1:9-18 New Living Translation

9 Believers who are^[a] poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. **10** And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. **11** The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements. **12** God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. **13** And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong,^[b] and he never tempts anyone else. **14** Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. **15** These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. **16** So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.^[c] He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.^[d] **18** He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.^[e]

Footnotes

- a. 1:9 Greek The brother who is.
- b. 1:13 Or God should not be put to a test by evil people.
- c. 1:17a Greek from above, from the Father of lights.
- d. 1:17b Some manuscripts read He never changes, as a shifting shadow does.
- e. 1:18 Greek we became a kind of firstfruit of his creatures.

Questions:

1. God does not look at our wealth or accomplishments but at your heart.

Explain how you can keep your heart loving God and not the things of this world.
2. Why should we not say, “God is tempting me”?
3. Where does temptation come from and what does it lead to?
4. How is God and the gifts he gives described in verse 17?
5. What is God giving to us in verse 18?

How does God describe us in verse 18?

Describe how this could help you to love God with all your heart.