

## James 1:13-18 – Temptation – Part 5

### Introduction

We have looked at the nature of sin and victory over sin and their progressions. Today, I would like to dig a little deeper into that process and the thinking that goes on behind it.

As believers we want to have victory over our sin and flesh, but it is too easy to fall back into old patterns. There are also those sins that we have brought before the throne of Christ hundreds of times, and yet we find ourselves snared again and again. We can be grateful that God forgives, but we should not use that as an excuse. We should desire to overcome and be like Christ.

## James 1:13-18

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. <sup>18</sup> Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

## The Father's Gifts

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

James tells us that every gift that God has given us is good. Good also promises to give us what we need. God also delights in giving us the desires of our hearts, but our sinful flesh pushes us to fulfill those desires outside God's will. We believe the lie that God does not desire our good (as we define it) so we seek to take matters into our own hands. The results are catastrophic.

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God's gifts are perfect. The idea of the word here is complete. God does not give you some of what you need. He gives completely. He gives you everything you need to fulfill His desires and purpose in your life. We can trust Him to meet our needs. This is not to say that we do not do our part, but we must keep in God's boundaries and timing.

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“The Father of lights”, was an ancient Jewish title for God, referring to Him as Creator, as the great Giver of light, in the form of the sun, moon, and stars (cf. **Gen. 1:14-19**). The created sources of light will eventually fade, but God's character, power, wisdom, and love have no variation or shifting shadow.

## The Father's Gifts

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

God does not change! His nature, purpose, and will do not change. His plans for your good do not change!

Through Malachi the Lord declares, "For I am the LORD, I change not" (**Mal. 3:6**). The writer of Hebrews states, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (**Heb. 13:8**). God is changeless.

## Our Foundational Belief

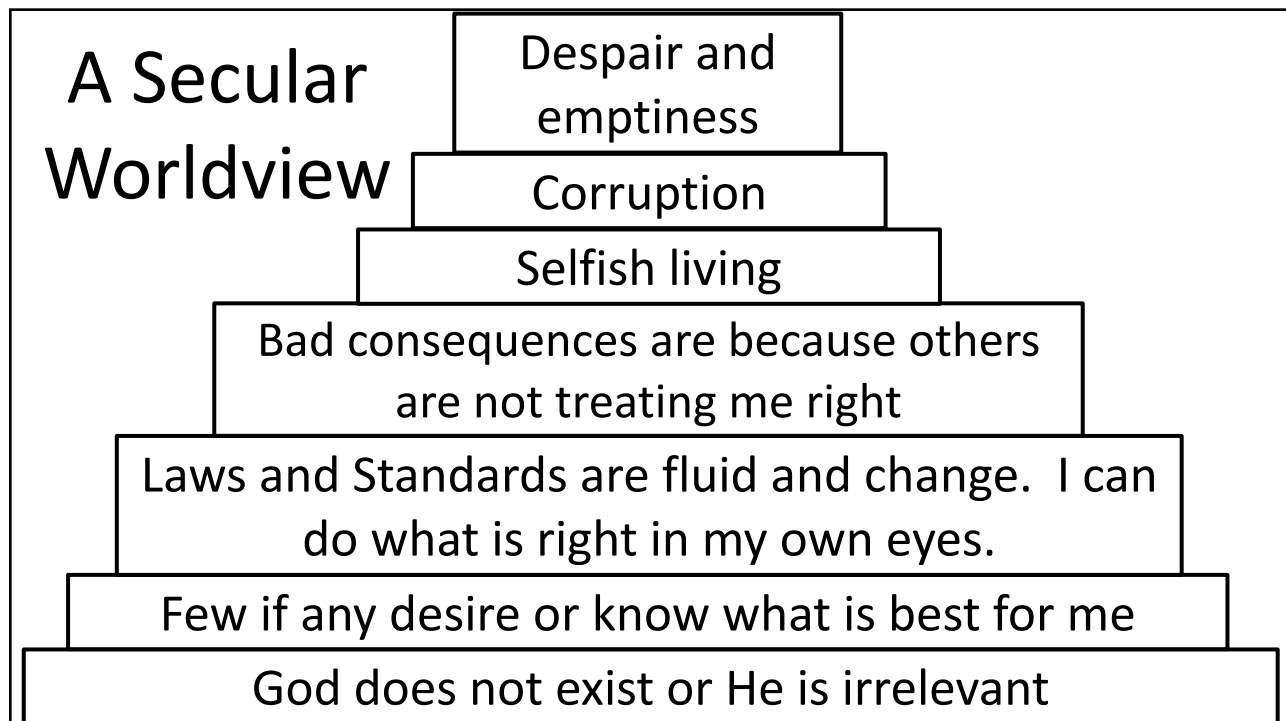
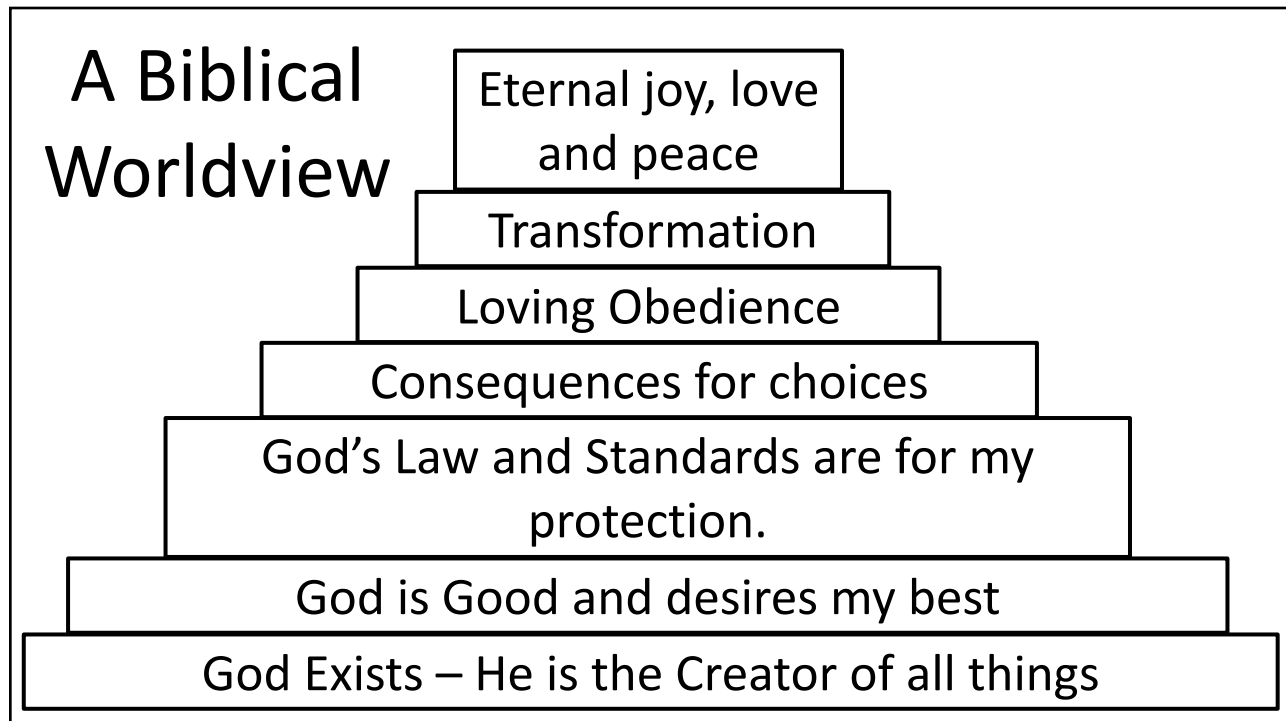
What we believe at the core of our being matters.

Our lives, choices, values, and opinions grow out of our system of belief. Jesus states:

**Matthew 15:18-19**

**But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.**

Let's look at how our view of the world shapes our actions.



## Our Foundational Belief

Earlier, James said that we must be careful not to be “double minded”. It is easy to profess a belief in Biblical Truth, but live our lives in a world that is governed by Secular Lies. We attempt to live with a foot in both worlds. The messages of the world bombard our hearts and minds. It tells us that we are the center of life and what is important is our happiness. There is talk about the common good, but it ultimately means my good and what I want.

## Our Foundational Belief

Living our lives in mental compromise, leads to a corruption of faith.

Luke 18 speaks of Jesus returning to earth in judgment, but listen to what He says in verse 8

**Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?**

Our actions declare the reality of what we believe.

When we live a compromised life, it declares a compromised heart and mind! If Jesus were to return now, would He find you living by faith or by sight?

### So What ...

You cannot change the past, but you can commit yourself to live by faith in the future. Living by faith is seen in our lives of worship both in word and in deed. When people look at you can they tell that you are a genuine Christian committed to living for His glory?

We are in the world, but not to be of the world! We are called to be the transformers of the world by being Ambassadors of a Heavenly Kingdom!