

SERMON OUTLINE James 1:18

God's Greatest Good

GOD'S GREATEST GOOD

God Brought Us Forth

God Brought Us Forth Of His Own Will

God Brought Us Forth Of His Own Will By The Word Of Truth

God Brought Us Forth Of His Own Will By The Word Of Truth As Firstfruits

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

In love James wrote to share truth with his struggling readers and help them put that truth into practice. In our passage for this Sunday, James continues on in this same mission by describing God's greatest good: bringing His people out of death and into fellowship with Him! In this short, simple verse, we're given a surprisingly clear, behind-the-scenes view of God's work in His people. James wanted his readers to recognize the fact that since God did not withhold His greatest good from them, He would certainly not withhold any lesser good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Where have you found the most help for godliness when life is hard? Have any of James's principles helped in real ways?
3. Prior to hearing this sermon, what would you have said is God's greatest good for His people? Did the sermon change that?
4. Have you ever thought about the connections God designed between the physical world and the spiritual world? Is it helpful to see the relationship between physical and spiritual birth?
5. Does thinking about what God brought you forth from, encourage or discourage you?
6. Can you define free will? Do you think we have it? How does it relate to our salvation?
7. Is it surprising or hard to hear that God saves us by His own will? Is it at all comforting or encouraging?
8. Are you confident in your understanding of the gospel? Is it harder to share it with someone else than by yourself?
9. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Practice sharing the gospel in one minute. Share the gospel with an unbeliever in one minute.
11. Pick one of James's principles for walking in joy through trials and make use of it the next time hardship comes.
12. Make two Jonathan Edwards-style resolutions in light of James 1:18.
13. Read something on free will and its relationship to salvation.
14. Find a way to write out, paint, write a poem or song, or otherwise creatively capture the gospel.
15. Commit to a Bible reading plan. (We've put some in the back of the church.)
16. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

17. Adoration. Praise God for His perfect will. Praise God for His power to create physical and spiritual life. Praise God for being omniscient. Praise God for loving the world in such a way that He sent His only Son to give eternal life.
18. Confession. Confess your reluctance to grow in your knowledge of the word of truth. Confess your reluctance to share the world of truth. Confess any hope you've placed in yourself for your salvation.
19. Thanksgiving. Thank God for giving you new life in Jesus. Thank God for strengthening you to walk in newness of life. Thank God for using you to bring salvation to the whole world. Thank God for giving every good and perfect gift.
20. Supplication. Ask God to help you see the depths of your depravity apart from His grace in Jesus. Ask God to save a specific person in your life. Ask God to help you understand and love the role of His will and yours in salvation. Ask God to make Grace Church stronger in knowing, loving, living in, and sharing the gospel.