# **Angry at God**

James 1:16-18

# Context

James writes to struggling Christians facing many trials and temptations. Those who face such challenges may be tossed about (5–8) and eventually destroyed by sin (15). Those who seek God’s wisdom endure trials (2–4) and become stronger. It is possible that some of the Christians questioned God’s goodness in the midst of their trials and fallen world.

# Bible Verse

**James 1:16–18 CSB**

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.   
  
Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.   
  
By his own choice, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

#### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Write down one good thing God has done for you: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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#### 1. Because of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Systematic Theology**: Immutability

* God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; He does not change His *essential* character (Ps. 102:24–27; Isa. 46:9–10; Mal. 3:6; James 1:17). By this, we mean that God’s nature, attributes, and will are exempt from all change.

#### 2. Because of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Why does a person become a Christian?

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BAPTIST CONFESSION. AD 1833  
VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION  
  
We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

**Systematic Theology: The Efficient Cause of Regeneration**

Even if truth could be energized, intensified, illuminated, there would still be needed a change in the moral disposition, before the soul could recognize its beauty or be affected by it. No mere increase of light can enable a blind man to see; the disease of the eye must first be cured before external objects are visible. So God’s work in regeneration must be performed within the soul itself. Over and above all influence of the truth, there must be a direct influence of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. Although wrought in conjunction with the presentation of truth to the intellect, regeneration differs from moral suasion in being an immediate act of God.

# Big Idea

### Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# Pray

“Dear Jesus, I confess I am a sinner and deserve judgment and hell, but I believe You love, came to this earth for me, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for my sins. I believe God raised you from the dead to forgive me. Please forgive me, come into my life, and grant me eternal life in You name. Help me to glorify you in all I do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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**The Lutheran Study Bible**

O Lord, deliver me from my struggles and grant me the gifts that come from You alone. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who has given me new life. Lead me in Your wisdom until I am raised to receive the crown of life. Amen.