

# *Is Your Perception Reality?*

*PASTOR MIKE YODER • JAMES 1:9-18*

*Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.*

**James 1:9**

*But the rich should take pride in their humiliation —  
since they will pass away like a wild flower.*

**James 1:10**



*For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.*

**James 1:11**

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

**James 1:12**

*When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.”  
For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone;*

**James 1:13**



*but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.*

**James 1:14**

*Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin;  
and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

**James 1:15**



*Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.*

**James 1:16**

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

**James 1:17**

*He chose to give us birth through the Word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.*

**James 1:18**



We are highly inclined to view the character of God through the lens of our present circumstances.

**Jonathan Wiley**

We're all equally valuable and dependent in God's family. (1:9–11)

*Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

**1 Timothy 6:9**



*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

**1 Timothy 6:10**

Both poverty and riches bring enormous pressure on a person to focus on the world rather than on Christ.



The attitude of both the poor and the rich brother is the result of the spiritual wisdom each has attained. The results look in opposite directions. The rich brother has come to realize that at the cross he stands on a level with the poor brother. Both have been given a new status in Christ, and that is their true ground for glorying.

**D. Edmund Hiebert**



We'll be rewarded by God for our faithfulness in hardship. (1:12)

The Christian who loves God, and who knows that God loves him, will not fall apart when God permits trials to come. He is secure in God's love.

**Warren Wiersbe**



We shouldn't blame God when we fall into sin, but ourselves. (1:13–16)



We want to put the fault on others or blame our upbringing, our friends, our family, our government, our condition, or anything else we can think of. The teaching of Scripture is clear: the fault for my sin lies with me.

**David Platt**

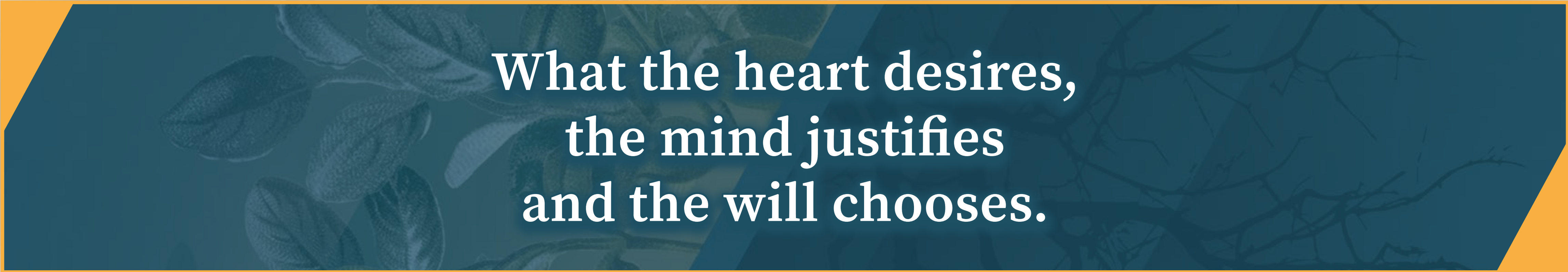
*A person's own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the Lord.*

**Proverbs 19:3**

Temptation has its source not in the outer lure but in the inner lust.

**D. Edmund Hiebert**





What the heart desires,  
the mind justifies  
and the will chooses.

Every trial, every external difficulty, carries with it a temptation, an inner enticement to sin. God may bring, or allow, trials; but He is not the author of temptation. Enticement to sin comes from our own sinful natures, not from God.

**Douglas Moo**

James gives the story of three generations: the grandmother is lust, the mother is sin, and the daughter is death.

**D. Edmund Hiebert**



Christian maturity is not indicated by the infrequency of temptation but by the infrequency of succumbing to temptation.

**Douglas Moo**

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

**1 Corinthians 10:13**



We have a reliable Father who  
does what's best for us. (1:17,18)



*If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!*

**Matthew 7:11**

*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God.*

**1 Peter 1:23**

His goodness is unchanging.  
His goodness is undeserved.  
His goodness is unending.

**David Platt**



The spiritual birth of believers is the first stage in God's cosmic plan to remake the entire universe.

**God always acts from His perfect  
character. We should always  
respond from a needy heart.**