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## #3 “Standing Firm”

### *James 1:12-18*

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THE  
**NO-NONSENSE  
GUIDE**  
TO AN  
**EXTRAORDINARY  
CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
- THE BOOK OF  
JAMES

#### Warming Up

1. In addition to playing golf, what are some other everyday experiences where it is crucial for a person to stand firm?

#### Digging In

*I will stand firm when I'm under trial . . .*

2. . . . *anticipating the reward that comes later (1:12)*
  - What does the “crown of life” refer to? Look up 2 Timothy 4:8, 1 Peter 5:4, and Revelation 2:10 and 3:11 for more on that.
  - Discuss the relationship between (a) “remain[ing] steadfast under trial” and (b) “receiv[ing] the crown of life”? Does doing (a) earn you (b)? Or does the promise of (b) spur on (a)? Something else? Explore this.
3. . . . *recognizing that God isn't just messing with me (1:13)*
  - What are the differences between a trial/test and a temptation? Who brings each on? How are we to respond to each?
  - How do we reconcile (a) the fact that God is sovereign over everything, (b) the request in Matthew 6:13 that God would “not lead us into temptation,” and (c) the statement here that God “himself tempts no one”? What gives?
  - When we blame God for wrong choices, what are we revealing about ourselves, our perception of God, and our understanding of sin?
4. . . . *but that I'm the one who's messed up (1:14-15)*
  - These verses outline a four-step blueprint for how temptation works. Identify them in the text. Walk through the steps using the example of sexual temptation.
  - How does admitting that temptations are your mess actually help you stand firm? What is the connection?
5. . . . *and remembering God's constant generosity (1:16-18)*
  - Often times we question God's goodness in the midst of trials, but what we need, according to Pastor Mike, is “a perspective realignment, which leads to an attitude adjustment.” What does this mean?
  - What are some of the “good and perfect gift[s]” that God has blessed you with? How should you respond to this reality?

#### Breaking Out

6. To what degree are you standing firm right now in the face of both trial and temptation? What is the biggest point of application for you from this message? How can you help one another in this regard?



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