



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sermon Discussion Questions Sunday, September 14, 2025

“Joy in Testing”
James 1: 12-18
Pastor Clay Smith

- James says temptation latches on to sinful desires lurking in our hearts (v.13–14). How does recognizing this truth change the way we take responsibility for sin in our lives?
- The sermon describes “over-desires” (epithumia)—good things that become ultimate things. What are some examples of over-desires in your own life which may lead you into sin?
- James reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from above (v.17). How does focusing on God’s goodness and gracious presence help us resist temptation in difficult seasons?
- Verse 18 calls us “firstfruits,” an expression of his new creation. How does this identity give us hope and strength in our daily fight against temptation?