

Life Group Discussion Material - Sunday, October 18th Message

Authentic Faith: James 1:13-27

Refine Your Faith

1. How would honeybees be able to differentiate between fake flowers and real ones? Compare/contrast some of the characteristics of each. How does this relate to authentic faith versus unauthentic faith?
2. Read Genesis 3:8-13. What did both Adam and Eve do when they were found to be in sin? Have you ever blamed anyone else for your sin, including Satan or God?
3. Read James 1:13-14. What does James say about who is at fault for sin? How does a person get into sin in this instance?
Hint: Remember that temptation is not sin.
4. Why is it wrong to blame God for sin? If He created you and is all-knowing and sovereign, couldn't He keep you from sin always?
Hint: Think about God's original creation plan and mankind's free will. Consider the fact that the Holy Spirit dwells within us to keep us from sin.
5. If you are allowing your faith to be continually refined, what should your stance toward sin be? Should you half-heartedly try to avoid it or should you wage war against it? What problems might arise if you only half-heartedly deal with sin?
6. James seems to add in some good proverbial wisdom in verses 19-20. While this is great advice and is teachable on its own, what is the bigger picture that James is pointing us to? See verses 21-22, 26-27.
7. Verse 22 tells us to be doers of the word, not hearers only. Is there any aspect of your life where you feel God leading you at this time and you are struggling with being a "doer"?
Leader's: Create an honest and humble environment for open discussion
8. True religion will remain true to God's ways and to God's service. Do you?