

## WHEN TEMPTED

James 1:13-18

*Main Point:* David Powlison points out, “Suffering tends to trigger a cascade of bad reactions.” In order to avoid such negative reactions, we need to pay attention to this passage where James exhorts us with two warnings when we go through suffering.

### INTRODUCTION

#### **WARNING #1. WHEN YOU SUFFER, DON’T BLAME GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY [1:13-15]**

Our logic goes like this: A sovereign God could keep me from suffering. He doesn’t. Therefore its his fault if I don’t follow him.

If God is not to blame when we are tempted, then what makes us fall into sin?

#### **WARNING #2. WHEN YOU SUFFER, DON’T DENY GOD’S GOODNESS [1:16-18]**

Our logic goes like this: A good God would destroy evil. He doesn’t. Therefore I don’t believe that God is good.

The supreme evidence of God’s goodness is the death of Christ for sinners.

### CONCLUSION

God’s sovereign purpose for our suffering is to turn our hearts toward him.



## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Hebrews 13:3

*Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.*

### **This Week—Pray for MOROCCO**

**Leader:** King Mohammed VI

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Population:** 32 million [0.1% Christian]

**Government:** Constitutional monarchy

### **BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Openness to Christianity continues to increase. Non-Muslim foreign communities can openly practice their faith; indigenous churches are growing in number and maturity.

However, conversion to Christianity is discouraged and evangelism and evangelism is prohibited. Increased tensions between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in 2009 have led to a crackdown on missionary activity in general. In March five Christian women were deported for illegally attempting to evangelize Moroccan citizens.

PRAY:

- ▶ For believers facing pressure from society to return to Islam.
- ▶ Bibles can be legally imported but there are not enough to meet demand. Pray for increased distribution.
- ▶ That indigenous churches would continue to grow in unity and maturity.



## PRAY FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION WORK

Mark 16:15

*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

[New American Standard Translation]

700 million people do not have the whole Bible in their own language and that 350 million people involving about 2000 languages are without even one verse of Scripture.

### **This Week—Pray for the New Testament in AROP-LOKEP language.**

AROP-LOKEP is a language spoken in Papua New Guinea. About 3,000 people speak this language. This translation project involves two dialects: Poonoo and Lokewe.

- ▶ **Pray** that the Poonoo New Testament will be typeset in 2011 and that over the next year all final checks will go well.
- ▶ **Pray** for improved literacy among community members and that local schools in the area will effectively meet the educational needs of both the young and the old.
- ▶ **Ask God** to provide a team of Lokewe speakers to adapt the Poonoo New Testament to their own dialect.