

# A STUDY OF JAMES (5)

Dealing with Temptations  
**James 1:12-18**

## The Book of James – **1:1-11**

- Continuing our study of James, we have addressed trials – how they can make us better
- We can turn to God for strength (asking for wisdom)
- In our last lesson, we looked at the contrast between the rich and the poor – and the need for humility among all.
- Tonight, we notice a specific type of trials – temptations we all face.
- It IS what Satan does!

# Blessed is the man who endures temptation (12)

- **Temptations**, the same word as “trials” in vs. 2
- Blessed is the man –
- Blessed, found ~50x in NT, beginning with **Matthew 5:3-12**. It is more than happiness. One who understands he is blessed (showered with God’s favor).
- Endure – the verb form of the same Greek word as “patience” in **James 1:3**. One who faces temptations and overcomes

# Blessed is the man who endures temptation (12)

- When he is approved
- Here the assumption is that good has come from one's efforts. He has been accepted by God and therefore approved (accepted as genuine)
- He will receive the crown of life – **2 Timothy 4:8**
- Promised by the Lord to those who love Him –  
**cf. Romans 2:7**

# God NOT the source of temptation (13)

- Man often blames God for failures and struggles. While He allows temptations, He is not the cause
- God cannot be tempted by evil – **Matthew 4:7**  
**(Deuteronomy 6:16)**  
**Psalm 5:4-5**

# God NOT the source of temptation (13)

- Man often blames God for failures and struggles. While He allows temptations, He is not the cause
- **Nor does He Himself tempt anyone** (to do evil)
  - What about **Genesis 22:1, Exodus 15:25 & Deuteronomy 8:3, etc.** – he “tested”?
- There is a difference in testing to build faithfulness and tempting one to sin. God NEVER puts a stumbling block in our way that forces us to sin.
- **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- Sin as a result of temptation is NOT His fault, it is ours!

# God NOT the source of temptation (13, 16-18)

- Every good and perfect gift (16-18) –
- This is what He offers to us (**2 Peter 1:3, Ephesians 1:3, Titus 2:11, etc.**)
- It comes down from the Father of lights -
- **1 John 1:5, cf. John 8:12** – Jesus is the light of the world.
- He brought us forth by the word of truth – they had obeyed the gospel and thus awaited salvation (James' audience).  
**John 17:17, Colossians 1:5**

## God NOT the source of temptation (13, 16-18)

- Every good and perfect gift (16-18) –
- That we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures
- First fruits would be the best, or the initial harvest.
- **Hebrews 12:22-23**, the church of the firstborn registered in heaven

## How temptation happens (14-15)

- Each one is tempted – we are. **Romans 3:23.**  
We will all be tempted!
- When he is drawn away by his own desires -
- We cannot blame anyone but ourselves if we give into temptations.  
While Satan has a part – tempter, accuser, liar, deceiver, etc., it is primarily up to us.
- If we have free will (and we do), that we have a choice is the ONLY viable answer.  
To deny free will is to BLAME God for our sins!

## How temptation happens (14-15)

- **And enticed** – “baited”.
- Found 3x in NT – **2 Peter 2:14 & 18** – enticing, alluring
- Satan will dangle his “bait” that we want in front of us.
- But we can walk away. **Cf. Matthew 4:4,7,10**  
**Cf. Hebrews 4:14-16**

## How temptation happens (14-15)

- The when desire has conceived – to impregnate (**cf. Luke 1:24, 31**). Can also mean to be seized (**Acts 26:21**).
- The beginning of the problem. Seed is planted and we begin to dwell on it. We “water” the enticement.
- While you may struggle with your thoughts, you can do something to improve (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5, cf. 1 John 2:15-17**). Will you take the steps?

## How temptation happens (14-15)

- **It gives birth to sin** – we are now guilty. We have sinned (**cf. Romans 6:23.**).
- Does this mean some sins are acceptable as long as we are not mature?
- No! If you “give birth” to sin, you are guilty!
- You need to take care of it!
- **Brings forth death** – descriptive of one caught up in sin who will not repent and is therefore separated from God.

# How temptation happens (14-15)

- **Consider the process in fishing**
- 1) Desire – the fish is hungry and curious. Satan cannot tempt us with what we do not desire.
- 2) Enticed – something gets the attention (smell, shiny, glistening, scented, making noise, etc.) of the fish that appeals to his desires. Satan dangles the “lure” in front of us. He makes it look appealing.
- 3) Conceives – the fish moves TOWARD the bait, intending to eat it. We decide to act on our desires “this one time”.

## How temptation happens (14-15)

- Consider the process in fishing
- 4) He takes the bait – the fish eats. Bait by itself is harmless, but there is the hook that traps the fish.
- 5) It brings forth death – the fish is caught, and unless he breaks away somehow, he will end up on the dinner table. Satan will catch us in our sins and do what he can to “kill us”, unless we “break free”..
- JAMES is warning his audience. He does NOT want us to be entrapped by Satan.

# How can we avoid temptations?

- 1) Change your desires – **Romans 12:1-2,**  
**Galatians 5:24. Cf. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5**
- 2) Limit your opportunities – without opportunity, temptation cannot take root.

NOTE: What is the likelihood of being tempted to engage in sinful activity WHILE you are assembled with your brethren? **Hebrews 10:24-25.**

See **Psalm 101**

# How can we avoid temptations?

- 3) Ask for help – **Matthew 6:13, cf. James 1:5.**  
**2 Thessalonians 3:3**
- 4) Exercise self control – **Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Peter 1:5-7.** Recall **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- 5) Obtain forgiveness – **1 John 1:7-9, 2:1-2, Acts 8:22**

Do you need to obey the gospel?

**Acts 2:38, 22:16, etc.**

Temptation is very real and we all struggle with it from time to time.

Being tempted is NOT a sin (cf. Hebrews 4:15-16). It is when you give in to your temptations that sin happens.

HOW are you dealing with  
your temptations?

Let us pray!