
tempted

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when , by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire is conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

(James 1:12-17, p. 854)

“Temptation” = to entice to do wrong by promise of pleasure or gain

Verse 12 *“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. ”*

This promise/reward is for those who overcome temptation!

Q - “Why does God allow temptation?”

A - To build moral muscle, and mold us into the image of Jesus.

Verse 13 *“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone.”*

Q - “What is the source of temptation?”

A - Our sin nature, and the spirit of the world (the devil/ demons).

“Temptation” is NOT sin. *Yielding* to temptation is sin (agreeing to it) .

James now uses two real life examples concerning how temptation manifests itself in our lives...

Verse 14 *“But each one is tempted when , by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”*

Note: Our “*own evil desire*” is the source/root/origin of our temptation.

A fishing metaphor...

► STAGE ONE - “*dragged away*”

Here our curiosity is aroused, and we are “lured” to temptation when our sin nature draws out what’s already in us. Remember that God has never given us any desire, without also providing a righteous, good and healthy way to fulfill that desire.

► STAGE TWO - “*enticed*”

This means to lure with a bait, and this is where the “hook” comes into play... we always see the “lure”- we never see the “hook”!

SIN - IS - INSANE!

Verse 15 *“Then, after desire is conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”*

A human life-cycle metaphor...

► STAGE THREE - “*conception*”

Here, desire and our sin nature, go after our will... seeking to overcome our will and so cause us to yield to temptation.

SIN - IS - INSANE!

► STAGE FOUR - *“birth”*

Gestation takes time... it takes a while before a baby starts to “show”. It’s the same with sin: it takes time to wreck your life. But be sure of this: one day “the baby will be born.”

SIN - IS - INSANE!

► STAGE FOUR - *“death”*

This word means *“stillborn”*. “Temptation”, when yielded to, becomes “sin”, and sin ultimately always leads to death.

SIN - IS - INSANE!

“Temptation’s” dark work within us...

thoughts → preoccupation/obsession → the sin act →
acquiescence/repetition → ruined lives/ultimate death

Verse 16 *“Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers.”*

This *“do not be deceived”* forces us to wake up and embrace the truth: sin always leads to death.

Verse 17 *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

God reserves His very best for those who leave the choice to Him!

A strategy to overcome temptation...

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”
(1 Corinthians 10:13)

1. WE’VE GOT TO WANT TO

: “Integrity is not something we hope to have, it’s something we decide to have.”

2. REPENT

: Do whatever is necessary to walk before God in righteousness.

3. RUN!

: My will, His power

4. FILL THE VOID WITH GOD

: Daily Bible reading, church attendance, a small group, do our ministry, share our faith with people far from Him. A habit is an acquired tendency that becomes strong from repetition.

5. MANAGE OUR MIND

: Make a covenant with our eyes (Job 31:1). Starve it out.

6. BE READY FOR THE STRUGGLE OF OBEDIENCE

: “Character” is a long obedience in the same direction. Obedience is the acid test of Christ-followership.

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word. I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Praise be to You, O Lord; teach me Your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from Your mouth. I rejoice in following Your precepts and consider Your ways. I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your word.”
(Psalm 119:9-16)