



INTRODUCTION

Christians are not immune to temptation. Since there is no spiritual vaccine, no “get out of temptation free” card, no alternate route to avoid the traps along the trail, how do we overcome temptation? James presents the truth about temptation in a straightforward manner. For the believer, properly dealing with temptation is a matter of life and death.

THE _____ OF TEMPTATION (1:13-14)

A. Temptations do not come from our _____ (1:13).

God will test us but He does not tempt us. His testing is always for our good, He does not tempt people for evil.

1. God cannot be _____ with evil.
2. God does not _____ with evil.

B. Temptations come from our _____ (1:14).

1. Our flesh is _____
2. Our flesh is _____

Application: God does not wish evil, and He does not cause evil. He may test believers in order to strengthen their faith, but He never tries to induce sin that would destroy faith. When we face temptation, God cannot be blamed. He is not the source of temptation.

THE _____ OF TEMPTATION (1:15)

We typically think of sin as a single act, but God views it as a sequential process. With precision, James describes the anatomy of sin, the process of destruction.

- A. A wicked _____ (lust)
- B. A willful _____ (sin)
- C. A woeful _____ (death)

Application: Be aware of the sequence of sin. It goes through conception (thought), birth (deed), growth (habit), and ultimately death (destiny). Don’t look at the bait, look at the fate (Rom. 6:23). Sin first fascinates and then it assassinates. The devil will show you the thrill but not the kill. The end result of sin is death. Which path are you on today, the way of life or death? Where is the course of your life heading?

THE _____ TO TEMPTATION (1:16-18)

The battle begins in our mind and heart. We must think right so we can live right! We do this by:

A. Recognizing Satan’s _____ (1:16).

Application: When you are overwhelmed by problems, what do you think about? What do you read? What do you watch? Who do you listen to? What do you dwell on? We must constantly evaluate our thoughts to avoid being led astray. What kind of seeds have you been sowing into the soil of your heart and mind? Are you slowly poisoning your mind and setting yourself up for failure?

B. Remembering God’s _____ (1:17-18).

James knows that practical faith must be rooted in true beliefs. So he reveals the source of victory over temptation – God! Weirsbe writes, “The goodness of God is a great barrier against yielding to temptations”. Remember that Satan is a liar and God is a giver. God’s gifts are always better than Satan’s bargains. Satan is a counterfeiter. To overcome temptation, we must set up some internal “fire walls”.

1. God’s goodness to us is _____ (“no variableness”)
2. God’s goodness to us is _____ (“cometh down”)
3. God’s goodness to us is _____ (“of His own will begat he us”)

Application: When temptation comes knocking in your life, who is answering the door, the flesh or the Spirit? Victory can be experienced through thinking right and doing right by God’s grace. Are you treasuring God’s Word in your heart? Do you merely dabble in Scripture now and then, or do you immerse yourself in its purifying, refreshing waters? Reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on God’s Word will help you to stand strong in the moment of temptation.

CONCLUSION

There is a remedy for sinful temptation. Christ, who has saved us from our sin and sees us through our sorrow, is the answer. We must not excuse ourselves and put the blame somewhere else. That will only leave us as vulnerable as before. Rather, we must recognize our sin-prone heart, and then we must heed God’s Word. By this means, God will bring us forth into new life where sin does not rule unbridled, and where glorious life, not death, is the prospect. Real faith escapes temptation.



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