

11 Feb.



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: James – week 2



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the difference between a test or trial from God, and a temptation from satan?
2. What will the man / woman receive who endures temptation according to v.12? (...He will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised...).
3. What does v.13 tell us about God? (...For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone).
4. How does satan tempt us according to v.14? (But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.).



Let's go deeper

5. What happens when evil desires conceive in our hearts or minds according to v.15? (When desire has conceived it gives birth to sin.).
6. What is the end result of sin according to v.15b? (...And sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.).
7. How does James warn us in v.16? (NKJV; Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren).
8. What is James' encouragement in v.17? (The goodness of God. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation...).



Let's apply this

9. James 1:17 NKJV; **Every good gift** and **every perfect gift** is from above, and **comes down** from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is **no variation** or shadow of turning.

James gives us five truths of God's goodness: God gives only good gifts. The way God gives is good. God gives constantly. God does not change, and God's gifts are always better than satan's bait or bargains.

- What determines your desires God's Word, or the world around you?
- How often do you think, and thank God for His goodness in your life?
- Ask a godly friend to help you in times of trials and temptations.

SUMMARY:

James: Week 2 – How to overcome temptation

Read: James 1:1 – 8

v.8 – 13; The mature person is patient in trials. Sometimes the trials are tests on the outside, and sometimes they are temptations on the inside.

What is the relationship between tests without and temptations within? Simply this: if we are not careful, the tests on the outside may become temptations on the inside. When our circumstances are difficult, we may find ourselves complaining against God, questioning His love, and resisting His will. At this point, Satan provides us with an opportunity to escape the difficulty or trial, and this opportunity is a temptation. While Israel was wandering in the wilderness, the nation often turned tests into temptations and disobeyed the Lord. If we are to mature, we must face tests and temptations.

v.14 – 15; The four stages of sin are:

Desire; The normal desires of life were given to us by God and, of themselves, are not sinful. Without these desires, we could not function. It is when we want to satisfy these desires in ways outside of God's will that we get into trouble.

Deception; Dragged / drawn away carries with it the idea of the baiting of a trap; and enticed in the original Greek means "to bait a hook." The hunter and the fisherman must use bait to attract and catch their prey. Temptation always carries with it some bait that appeals to our natural desires. The bait not only attracts us, but it also hides the fact that yielding to the desire will eventually bring sorrow and punishment. The bait keeps us from seeing the consequences of sin – **examples** are Lot, Abraham, David, and many others.

Disobedience; At this stage a person has moved from the emotions (desire) and the mind (deception / lies) to the will (disobedience). James changed the picture from hunting and fishing to the birth of a baby. Desire longs to take the bait. The will approves and acts, and the result is sin. Whether we feel it or not, we are hooked and trapped. The baby is born, and starts to mature!

Death; Disobedience gives birth to death, not life. It may take years for the sin to mature, but when it does, the result will be death.

- **Four stages of sin in Genesis 3:**

The serpent used desire to get Eve interested (see Genesis 3:5 – 6).

Paul described the deception of Eve in 2 Corinthians 11:3.

Eve disobeyed God by taking the fruit of the tree and eating it (See Genesis 3:6).

Adam and Eve immediately experienced spiritual death and separation from God.

v.16 – 18; Five truths about God's goodness:

God gives only good gifts. The way God gives is good. God gives constantly.

God does not change, and God's gifts are always better than satan's bargains.