

“How to Face Temptations”

James 1:13-18

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I. Introduction

- A. If we are going to grow in our Christian life, there are two things we must learn
 - 1. How to face trials with a joyful attitude
 - 2. How to triumph over temptation
- B. The Christian life involves trials and temptations
 - 1. “My brethren count it all joy when (not if) you fall into different trials (or tests).” (v. 2)
 - 2. “Let no man say when he is tempted” (v. 13)
 - 3. The two are closely connected but completely different
 - 4. In our text today, we learn how to face temptation
 - a) Three things to remember

II. Remember Temptation’s Source (James 1:13-14)

- A. It does not come from God (v. 13)
 - 1. “When he is tempted” (v. 13)
 - 2. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - 3. Why would James say this?
 - a) When we sin, we often shift the blame
 - b) We play the “blame game”
 - 1) Our parents
 - 2) Our family
 - 3) Our environment
 - 4) Our job
 - 5) Our spouse
 - c) Illustration- Adam and Eve
 - 4. We, too, blame God
 - a) Why did He let this happen?
 - b) God made me this way, I can’t help it
 - c) Don’t blame God!
 - 5. The reasons temptation does not come from God
 - a) For God cannot be tempted with evil
 - 1) Its emphatic
 - 2) God unversed in evil
 - 3) Because He is holy
 - 4) He had no needs
 - b) Neither does He tempt anyone
 - 1) Its emphatic
 - 2) “And He Himself tempteth no man”
- B. Where does our temptation come from?
 - 1. It comes from our own lust (v. 14)
 - a) Our own desires

- b) We have found the enemy, and the enemy is us
- c) It's our own sinful passions
- d) The fall and man's sin nature
- e) No mention of the Devil
- f) The Christian is at war with:
 - 1) The world
 - 2) Our flesh
 - 3) The Devil
- g) We must take responsibility for our sins
- h) Jesus said, "from the heart"
- i) Stop shifting the blame
 - 1) Remember temptation's source (your own lust)

III. Remember Temptation's Course (James 1:14-15)

A. Desire

1. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (v. 14)
 - a) "Drawn away" is a fishing term
 - b) It's "to lure"
 - c) Also, "enticed" is literally "to set bait"
 - d) It's my own lust
 - e) We are snared by one's own bait

B. Disobedience

1. "Then when lust has conceived, it bringeth forth sin" (v. 15)
 - a) The word picture is now that of conception and childbirth
 - b) Desire leads to disobedience
 - c) It's not a sin to be tempted
 - 1) Illustration- Jesus was tempted

C. Death

1. "...and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (v. 15)
 - a) Desire, disobedience, death
 - b) Illustration- Eve
 - 1) Good for food (desire)
 - 2) She did eat (disobedience)
 - 3) Death
 - c) Illustration- David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)
 - 1) Desire (he saw)
 - 2) Disobedience (he lay with her)
 - 3) Death (Uriah and the child)
 - d) What sin will do
 - e) (Psalm 51)
 - f) Things David lost
 - 1) A clean heart
 - 2) His joy
 - 3) God's presence
 - g) (Galatians 6)

IV. Remember Temptation Can Be Conquered (James 1:16-18)

- A. Remember God's goodness (vv. 16-17)
 - 1. "Don't be deceived" (v. 16)
 - 2. God is the source of all good
 - 3. We sin when we forget God and His goodness
 - a) Illustration- Joseph in Potiphar's house
 - 4. The way God gives is good (every act of giving) (v. 17)
 - 5. What God gives is good (perfect gift)
 - 6. God gives constantly (keeps coming down)
 - 7. The God who gives is good (Father of lights)
 - a) He doesn't change
 - b) You can trust Him
 - c) God is good, and He loves you
- B. Remember you are His child (v. 18)
 - 1. God's greatest gift
 - 2. "Became He us" (v. 18)
 - 3. Born again
 - a) We have a new nature
 - 4. The source of our new birth
 - a) "Of His own will" (v. 18)
 - b) It's a divine work of God
 - 1) "But as many as received Him..." (John 1:12-13)
 - 5. The instrument of our new birth
 - a) "The Word of truth" (v. 18)
 - b) God's Word
 - c) Is the Gospel
 - d) You must believe
 - 1) (John 3:16)
 - 2) (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - 6. The purpose of the new birth
 - a) "...that we should be a kind of first fruits of his..." (v. 18)
 - b) "He chose to give birth to us by giving us His true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession." (NLT)
 - c) We who are born again are His prized possession
 - d) Remember who you are!
 - e) Born of God overcomes the world

V. Conclusion

- A. Have you been born of God?
 - 1. Sin
 - 2. Cross
 - 3. Receive Him