

Becoming Mature in Christ

How to Handle Temptation

James 1:13-18

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Introduction:

- Last week we spoke about “Tests” that God allows us to go through. There are three things to remember about them:
 - God will test us.
 - God’s test always works for us, not against us.
 - Tests help us to mature in our faith.
- **James 1:13-18**
- **Matthew 4:1**
- Satan is the tempter … The Great Serpent … The Father of all Lies … The Great Deceiver.
- **Luke 4:13**
- **1st Thessalonians 3:5**
- How do we overcome temptations that come our way?

1. God’s Judgement:

- a. **James 1:14-15**
- b. What is Temptation? – Simple terms – Sometimes it is an opportunity to accomplish a good thing in a bad way.
 - i. Is it wrong to want to pass a test? No, but it is wrong to cheat.
 - ii. Is it wrong to want new clothing items? No, but it is wrong to steal them.
 - iii. Is it wrong to want a good job? No, but it is wrong to lie in an interview or on your resume.
 - iv. Is it wrong to want a great tax return? No, but it is if you must lie to the IRS.
 - v. Is it wrong to want a little more spending money? No, but it is if you rob God of what belongs to Him.
- c. We often tend to see sin as a single act when it is really part of a process.
- d. **James 1:14-15** – Show us four stages of sin:
 - i. Desire –
 - ii. Deception – **2nd Corinthians 11:13-15** – Satan masquerades as an angel of light.
 1. Do you think sin looks ugly? I think that is how most picture it, but it is not always.
 2. Lot would have never moved towards Sodom and Gomorrah had he not seen the well-watered plains of the Jordan Valley.

iii. Disobedience –

1. **Genesis 3:4-5** – Adam and Eve
2. **Genesis 3:6**
3. Desire and Deception lead right into Disobedience – Sometimes it takes years ... sometimes just minutes.
4. **Genesis 3:7-24**
5. **Luke 22:40**
6. **Matthew 6:13**
7. Temptation will come our way, but God is faithful and will always offer us an open door to get out.
 - a. **1st Corinthians 10:13**
 - b. **Matthew 28:20**
 - c. **Philippians 4:13**
 - d. **Hebrews 13:5+**

iv. Death –

2. God's Goodness:

- a. One of Satan's deceptions is to try to make us believe that God is holding out on us.
- b. **Genesis 3:45**
- c. **Matthew 4:3**
- d. **Matthew 4:6**
- e. When we doubt the goodness of God, we become attracted to the offers of our adversary.
- f. **James 1:16-17**
 - i. God gives only good gifts.
 - ii. The way of God is good.
 - iii. God gives constantly.
 - iv. God does not change.
- g. **John 3:16**
- h. **1st Corinthians 13:4-8**
- i. **2nd Samuel 12:7-8**
- j. The next time you are tempted, consider two things:
 - i. God's Judgement – You never know if you have until next week.
 - ii. God's Goodness –