

"True Faith and Temptation"**Part 2****James 1:13-18**

Introduction: Last week in our study of James we started into a new section where James is focused upon "temptation". In James 1:2-12 James focused upon the trials of life. Then as we come to James 1:13-18 he switches from the trials of life to the temptation to commit sin.

Last week I told you that the transition is very quick and there is a reason for that. The "trials of life" can very easily turn into "temptations to sin" when we do not follow the steps which James gave us in 2-12.

1. Be joyful in the trials.
2. Deepen your knowledge of God.
3. Surrender to God's work.
4. Look to God for the answers when you need wisdom.
5. Allow God to teach you.

When these 5 points are not followed then what has come as a trial can very easily become a temptation to sin.

Last week I gave you a Biblical example and I would like to show it to you again.

John 18:15-17

¹⁵ And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.

¹⁶ But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.

¹⁷ Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? [This was the test] He saith, I am not.

Peter refused to trust the Lord in the midst of the trial. He was afraid to stand for his faith and therefore the trial became a temptation and Peter gave into sin.

Now some people would reason that since God permitted the trial which Peter faced and God knew how he would react then in an indirect way God is at fault.

James knew the sin nature of people and he knew that man would be reluctant to take responsibility for his sin. James also knew that there would be some people who would not practice the 5 steps which were presented in 2-12 and when they failed they would somehow reason that God was to blame.

That is exactly why he makes a quick transition from the trials of life to temptation.

Now as we approach this section James will explain temptation.

I. Where temptation does NOT come from.

Notice James 1:13

James is straight forward with his point here. The first part of the verse is a command telling us that we cannot blame God for the temptations which we face. Last week I told you that the idea here is not that we would blame God directly but indirectly.

We have inherited this from our father Adam.

Genesis 3:9-13

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

¹³ And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

James also tells us within this verse why we cannot blame God and it is because He cannot be tempted nor does He ever tempt anyone.

II. Where temptation DOES come from.**Notice James 1:14**

Here James tells his readers that every man or woman is tempted because of his own lust. There are several words here which are important to understand.

1. **Lust** - This refers to our sin nature. This is a result of Adam's sin in the garden and now through Adam we have inherited that very sin nature. No one needs to teach us to sin we know how to sin from the time we were babies.
2. **Drawn away**- This was a term that was used for hunting and it speaks of baiting a trap.
3. **Enticed**- This speaks of baiting a hook and even of BEING HOOKED.

So here is the picture James paints, every person is tempted when there is bait that is placed before them which appeals to their sin nature. Satan can bait the trap, man can bait the trap, or the world can bait the trap. But God never baits the trap. So when the bait is placed before us and our sin nature desires it then we are tempted.

Notice James 1:15

This is where we stopped last week. In this verse James uses the illustration of child birth.

Last week I told you that once the conception takes place the baby will be born. So if sin is going to be controlled in a person's life then it must be controlled at the point of desire.

I want to take a moment and look at the word "conceived" again. I want to help you with temptation so you need to listen to what I am going to say.

In order for a "conception" to take place there must be 2 things which come together. With people it is the seed of the man and the seed of the woman. Once the 2 come together the conception happens. Therefore since sin starts with a conception there must be 2 things which come together.

Notice James 1:15 again.

We see that 1 thing is "lust" and it is pictured as the woman in this analogy. So if we can determine what it is that "lust" mates with then we can better guard against sin.

Let me just tell you that "lust" mates with our "mind" or our "will". In other words we see something or we think of something that is appealing to the sin nature and if that DESIRE

is not forsaken then we begin to formulate a plan to get that which we desire. When the DESIRE is permitted to stay long enough for our WILL to take the bait then the conception has occurred.

Let me show you this in action.

2 Samuel 11:1-4

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

² *And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.*

³ *And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?*

⁴ *And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her;*

So here is what we need to do when the desire comes.

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵ **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

Now let us look at the baby.

Notice James 1:15 again.

The baby is sin and he is a murderer. This is exactly why the conditions in our world are as they are. We live in a world full of people who are sinners who are controlled by sin and therefore we see death everywhere.

But here is the point I want you to see and that is that sin never gives what it promises. It will leave you empty, shamed and under a great cloud of guilt.

Now James is going to magnify the Lord.

III. The Character of our God

Notice James 1:16

The meaning here is, "Do not be deceived." This statement is here to show a contrast. We must keep in mind the context of what James is concerned with here in this section. He is focused upon showing his readers that temptation is not from God and now he is about to point to the character of God as evidence.

Notice James 1:17

There is so much to see here in this verse. When James says that every good gift and every perfect gift is from God there is really a meaning here that we do not see on the surface but we do when we look at some word meanings.

The 2 words used for the word "GIFT" here are 2 different words.

1. Every good gift - This refers to the act of giving.
2. Every perfect gift - This refers to the gift given.

So here is what James is saying: **God cannot be blamed for temptation because every act of giving from God is good and every gift that is given by God is perfect.** Therefore there is no way that evil can be associated with God.

Application:

Since every act of giving by God is good (meaning the opposite of evil) and every gift that is given by God is perfect then we should be quick to flee from temptation.

Listen, when we live a life of devotion to God and we are willing to die to our own personal DESIRES then we will find true satisfaction. It is a battle every day to stay devoted to God but we can see right here that to follow our own DESIRES will lead to great disappointment but the life lived for God will bring great satisfaction and contentment.

There are many believers who have been deceived into thinking that there is something in this world that will satisfy the thirst within them. So they push God aside and they chase after many different things. But I can assure you that no matter what you chase after and you catch it will leave you empty.

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

¹⁰ *And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

¹¹ *Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*

Solomon tells us it is a waste of time search in this world for fulfillment. Let me show you what many do not know who are looking in the world for fulfillment.

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

⁸ *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

⁹ *Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?*

¹⁰ *Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?*

¹¹ *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

He WELL is full and if we ask God He will give us that which will satisfy our thirst.

If you are not devoted to God you have no idea what it is that you are missing. You have been deceived by yourself or Satan into thinking that you can find what you are looking for in the world.

Notice James 1:17 again.

James tells us that God is the Father of lights. He is the One who has created the sun , moon, stars, and the planets. They are the lights which James is referring to and they are always moving. Their light varies depending upon the weather conditions here on the earth.

But God never varies. No matter what the conditions are within our lives, whether it is a trial, a storm, if we are sick, in the hospital, or at the funeral home mourning over a loved one, God is the same. He is still God and He still loves us.

He desires to give to us good things and His act of giving is even good. God can never be blamed for our temptation.

Conclusion:

I want to speak to you in closing about your devotion. How is your relationship with God? Are you cold or are you lukewarm? Are you drifting farther from God in your walk?

Did you know that you are losing blessing every day? Let me show you.

Notice 2 Samuel 12:1-8

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

² *The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:*

³ *But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.*

⁴ *And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.*

⁵ *And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:*

⁶ *And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.*

⁷ *And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;*

⁸ *And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, **I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.***