

"True Faith and Temptation"

Part 3

James 1:13-18

Introduction: This is our 3rd week in James 1:13-18 and I want to review a little of what we have talked about in the previous lessons before we get to where we are going today. In James 1:2-12 James instructed his readers about face the trials of life. In that section he gave us 5 points of help as we face the trials of life.

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.

Then as we approached verse 13 James made a quick change from the trials of life to the temptations which we face as we pass through this world.

Now I told you the past 2 weeks that when we face the trials of life and we do not submit to the 5 points which James spoke of then if we are not careful the trial can turn into a temptation to sin. I showed you how that very thing happened in Peter's life when his faith was tested the night which Jesus was arrested. He did not trust God and the test of his faith became a temptation to sin and he gave into the sin.

We have talked about how God allows each of the trials in our life and so some people could look at Peter's situation and reach the conclusion that in an indirect way it was God who tempted Peter. That is completely wrong!

James knew the sinfulness of each one of us and he knew that because we inherited our sin nature from Adam that when we fell to sin there would be the temptation to somehow in an indirect way blame God.

This is exactly what happened when God confronted Adam in the garden.

Genesis 3:9-12

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.

In an indirect way Adam blamed God and therefore James knew that we would be tempted to do the same at times. So in verses 13-18 James makes it very clear that God cannot be blamed for our temptation.

I. Where sin does NOT come from.

Notice James 1:13

Here James points to the nature of God and he tells us that God cannot be tempted with evil nor does He tempt any man. As we have already talked about, God is righteous and holy and we cannot blame Him for our temptation. Sin is contrary to the nature of God and therefore He cannot be blamed.

II. Where sin DOES come from.

Notice James 1:14

Every man is tempted when he is drawn away by bait. The bait is something which is forbidden and Satan, the world, or someone places the bait on a hook and hangs it in front of us. It is then that our sin nature, here referred to as lust, begins to desire the bait which has been placed upon the hook.

Notice James 1:15

Last week I pointed out the word "conceived" here. In order for a conception to take place there must be 2 things come together. Here in this verse we see that one of the 2 is lust and last week I told you that it mates with our will.

Now once that conception takes place the "baby" is coming out.

Notice James 1:15 again.

The baby is sin and the baby is a murderer.

Now here is something which I want you to grasp here. In order to deal with sin it must be stopped at the point of desire. Let me refresh your mind with a statement I gave you last week.

When the DESIRE is permitted to stay long enough for our WILL to take the bait then the conception has occurred.

Once you reach the point of the conception there is no turning back. Sin must be stopped at the point of desire!

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;*

The desire was permitted long enough for it to mate with David's will and he was committed.

Then James pointed to:

III. The Character of God.

Notice James 1:16-17

Here James had 2 thoughts in mind and we see them when we look at the meaning of the word "gift". The first use of the word here refers to the act of giving. The second time it is used it refers to the gift which is given.

This is the character of God. Every act of giving and every gift that is given is good and perfect. Therefore God cannot be blamed for our temptation.

IV. The Purpose of God.**Notice James 1:18**

James now shows why God cannot be blamed for our temptation. It is because He has saved us to be like Him.

Listen, He is holy and righteous, every act of giving and every gift given is perfect and good and now James points to the fact that God has saved us to be like Him. Therefore we cannot blame God for our temptation because if He is the source of our temptation then He would be working to defeat His own purpose.

Let me break this verse down for you and as I do I want you to consider what God has done so that we can be like Him.

1. He provided a way for sinners to be forgiven.

Salvation is not man's idea it was God's idea long before the world ever was created. He knew that man would sin and He knew that we would need a way to be saved.

This is where the mystery of the cross comes in. Man sinned against a righteous and holy God and therefore man's sin had to be paid for. But it had to be paid for with a blood sacrifice and the sacrifice had to be sinless and perfect. Somebody had to die in order to pay the penalty for our sin. Now because we are all sinners and every one of us are born with a sin nature there was not a man who could die for our sins. No man was perfect.

The only One Who qualified to be the sacrifice for us was God but God cannot die because He is a Spirit and in order for death to occur the body must be separated from the spirit. So God had a plan. He would take upon Him a human body (Jesus Christ) and be born of a virgin that way He was not born with the sin nature and He would live here for 33 years and then He would go to the cross and He would die for our sins. That is exactly what He did.

1 Corinthians 15:3

³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

2. He sought us out while we were deep into sin.**Genesis 3:8-9**

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

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

3. He began to draw us to Himself.

John 6:44

⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

4. He brought us to a place where we could hear His Word.

You may have heard God's Word from a friend, from a Pastor in a sermon, or read it on your own. But it was God who brought that friend or it was God who allowed you to attend that church.

Let me show you some verses of how God directs our lives to place us where He wants us.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Do you remember what Mordecai said to Esther about her position in the palace?

Esther 4:14

¹⁴ For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

So God directed our steps to where we could hear His Word.

5. His Spirit convicted us of sin.

When we heard the Truth of God's Word about how we are sinners and how all sin must be paid for there was a conviction which we began to feel.

John 16:7-8

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

6. He had then brought us to a crossroads.

It was at the crossroads where we had to make a decision.

Genesis 4:5-7

⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

⁶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Cain had to choose and so do we.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

6. He offered the FREE Gift of eternal life to you.

You see we were living in James 1:14-15. We were following the bait which our sin nature desired so much and it controlled us. Then God called to us through His Word.

Notice James 1:18 again.

He begat us with His Word. He then showed us the Gift of eternal life which had cost Him the life of His Son.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:16-18

¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

7. He gave you eternal life when you repented and placed your faith in Christ.

John 1:12-13

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

When we receive Jesus Christ God then causes us to be born again. We cannot do the work of regeneration that is of God but we do have to make the choice to receive Christ before God does the work.

Now notice why God did all of this.

Notice James 1:18

That we would be the firstfruits of His creatures. There is so much here but we are out of time. But let me tell you that if we were to go to the Old Testament you would find that the firstfruits were to be given completely to God.

October 12, 2014

James Study #12

AM Service

The picture is that *God* has saved us so that we will be completely devoted to Him and separated from the evil of this world.

Conclusion:

This is why we cannot blame god for our temptation.