

James 1:1-17

Temptation

Welcome back and here we go!

Today we will continue to talk about temptation. Friday's sermon was also called "Temptation". There are many opportunities to be tempted! Trials and temptations are two different things! Last week we talked all about putting trials into (counting) the positive column. Today we are talking about putting temptations into the right compartment as well!

James 1:1-17

Praise God for easy to understand WORDS OF GOD! Today we focus on verses 1:9-17.

1. What are verses 9 and 10 about?

As we move further into James, wealth/money will be brought up time and time again. We almost see an underlying message within --- a message about putting our resources to work. "DOERS", not just hearers, favoritism, no works, rich oppressors. In verses 9 and 10 we learn to be humble, no matter our position. All wealth eventually becomes nothing.....

James 1:12-17

2. What is the difference between a trial and a temptation?

Often, we are tempted within our trials, tempted to blame God, tempted to find our own solution, tempted to take shortcuts!

In this block of scriptures, we again see the promises --- here a "*crown of life*".

None the less while this block is really speaking of being tempted to blame God, we usually read this to include a broad swath of temptations.

3. Why do people suppose God is tempting them?

I certainly preach that God allows things in our life. In fact, it is my belief that nothing happens without what we call the "permissive will of God". The bottom line is we all want to have an excuse for poor behaviors. Excuses are often found in others. For example, "She gave me it and I ate."

The first tendency of a spiritually mature person is NOT to blame but to TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!

God cannot be tempted by evil!

The truth is temptation comes from two sources:

- Sin Nature ----- drawn away
- Satan ----- enticed

4. Which source is the worst in your life?

Romans 7:17-25

Many times, what happens, happens in two stages. First, we are drawn to a sin by our sin nature. Second, the enemy sees our inclination and then tempts.

James 1:15

5. How does sin bring forth death?

“Crown of Life” – verse 12.

“Death” -- verse 15 ----- quite a contrast!

Yet, time and time again we choose death. You may be choosing death today in some area. Believe me, sin wants to kill every good thing about you!

James 1:17

6. What are these gifts?

In truth, two things cover this, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

These are the tools we have been given to overcome temptation. So, which is greater in your life --
- sin nature / Holy Spirit / satan / Jesus?

Remember these are *gifts*, not something earned.

I am not sure the source of your temptation, but the answer is always running to Jesus.

Let's pray.