

March 26, 2006

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Keeping Your Faith When Tempted to Sin *James 1:13-18*

- Know the _____ of your temptations. James 1:13
Genesis 3:8-13 — Our inclination:

- Recognize the _____ through temptation. James 1:14-16
My “*own lust*.”
 - _____ Stage—my mind. ***Carried away***
Read James 4:7, 8

 - _____ Stage—my feelings. ***Enticed***
Read II Peter 2:12-15; Hebrews 5:11-14

 - _____ Stage—my actions. ***Lust has conceived, sin is accomplished***
Read I John 1:9

 - _____ Stage—my correction. ***Brings forth death***
Read Hebrews 12:4-13

- Pursue the _____ for my temptations. James 1:17, 18
 - God is good and gives us only good gifts — trust Him. Colossians 3:1-5

 - In Christ, I am good “***a kind of first fruits among His creatures***” — Live it.

Digging Deeper In James 1:13-18

James, the half brother of Jesus, began his letter to the Jews scattered around the Middle East to help them live by faith in their trials. James 1:1-12 deals with the trial of suffering that may surround us. James 1:13-18 now deals with another kind of trial. We call it a “temptation.” The word “trial” in vs. 2 and “tempt” in vs. 13 is essentially the same Greek word. One is considered a trial from external circumstance. The latter is an inner struggle from a temptation.

What does James tell you not to do regarding your temptation in **James 1:13**? That must mean that we are prone to seeking someone else to blame for our temptations.

Read **Genesis 3:8-13** and make as many observations as you can on how Adam and Eve reacted after failing their temptation. We covered this Sunday morning. As you list the ways they reacted, note how many of those ways you have used when tempted.

What promise does God make to you about any temptation according to **I Corinthians 10:13**? Write down a time in your life when you have seen this happen.

What warning does Paul offer you in **II Corinthians 11:3** based on the failure of Eve in her time of temptation? What should your mind pursue when tempted?

Read **James 1:14-15**. In vs. 14 James teaches that we each have our “*own lust*.” Everyone is tempted by different things. What may tempt you, may not be a temptation to someone else. For example, I can look at a box of See’s Candies and not have any desire to eat them. But, put a Sara Lee Cherry Pie in front of me, and my mouth begins to water. On a more important level, some are tempted to gambling, where others are just repulsed by it. Some constantly battle the attraction of pornography or perhaps a woman who works with you in the office. Others can hardly resist buying up more technological toys or spending too much time in a sporting event. The point: we each have our “*own lust*.”

Therefore, you must know what your “*own lust*” is to be able to avoid it, flee from it, and have your guard up at all times.

Write down those areas of your life that will tempt you to sin. Be honest.

To help you, compare the two passages which are great illustrations on the broad areas that Satan has tempted people. The first column is **Genesis 3:1-7** when Satan tempted Adam and Eve. The second column is **Matthew 4:1-11** when Satan tempted Jesus. Note the similarities of these two temptations and how your temptation may be in the same areas

Genesis 3:1-7

- 1 **Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"**
- 2 **The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;**
- 3 **but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' "**
- 4 **The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!**
- 5 **"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**
- 6 **When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.**
- 7 **Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.**

Matthew 4:1-11

- 1 **Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**
- 2 **And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.**
- 3 **And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."**
- 4 **But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "**
- 5 **Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,**
- 6 **and *said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,**
'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU';
- and
'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' "
- 7 **Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.' "**
- 8 **Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;**
- 9 **and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."**
- 10 **Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.' "**
- 11 **Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.**

First Area of Temptation:

Compare **Genesis 3:1** and **Matthew 4:3, 4** - What are each tempted to do?

I see this as a temptation of the flesh—Satan will appeal to your physical appetite.

I John 2:16 calls this the "lust of the flesh."

What areas of your "flesh" or physical pleasure are you tempted to pursue that are contrary to God's will in your life? It could be food, sex, drugs, obsession with looks, etc.

Second Area of Temptation:

Compare **Genesis 3:4** and **Matthew 4:6**. Note: Satan said Eve will not die; Jesus will not get hurt, if they just obey Satan. Live Satan's way, and your life will go better, you will not suffer consequences of disobeying God. Satan offers them an easy prosperity or a better position to gain by denying God's truth and living by his new relative rules that suffer no harm.

Is there an area of your life, thoughts, or work, where you are tempted to find some easy prosperity or advance in a position which is not God's will, by making up new rules and not living by the clear commands of God? Are you being "**drawn**," "**enticed**" and "**deceived**" (**James 1:14-16**) into some better position based on a relative view of truth or a denial of harmful consequences? It could involve cheating on taxes, unethical practices at work, stealing from work to make up for lack of pay, cheating on a paper at school, etc. You may think you can get away with it because of Satan's harmful thoughts and feelings.

Third Area of Temptation:

Compare **Genesis 3:5** and **Matthew 4:8, 9**. What does Satan promise in both passages?

This is a "pride of life" where I can gain power or prestige, by just rationalizing my thoughts and behavior as if what I am doing is a good thing. It is so easy to rationalize our behavior to make it seem good, when in fact it is disobedient to God and obedient to the temptations of Satan. He just wants to move us away from a dedicated allegiance to Christ.

Read **II Corinthians 11:3** on that subtle, crafty shift of life.

Is there an area of your life where "pride," "power," or "prestige" is moving you away from a pure devotion to Christ? Do you think you can control your own life better than God can? Are there biblical commands that seem too hard, inconvenient or difficult, therefore, you will create your "own kingdom" to make up your own rules on how you can live? Is there anything at work, school, a club or sport, moving you to live more for yourself, for your own prestige or power to control your own life, rather than be in complete submission to God? Do you doubt the goodness of God because He seems to be holding out on you? Do you have a spirit of entitlement from God that He should heal you, prosper you financially, promote you at work, or help you to achieve a better position of power or prestige with friends or classmates? Evaluate your use of time, finances, and abilities. Are they invested completely for the Lord, or your own personal gain?

The front of the outline offers these following verses and antidotes to the temptations of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life from I John 2:16.

- If you are being drawn to sin, turn to **James 4:7, 8**, and prayerfully pursue it.
- If you are being enticed by some "bait" which makes you deny the consequences of disobedience, read **II Peter 2:12-15** and **Hebrews 5:11-14** and obey them in studying God's Word to have your sense trained for right and wrong.
- If you have already sinned from temptation, read **I John 1:9** and confess your sins.
- If God is already disciplining you from a past sin, read **Hebrews 12:4-13**. From that passage, what is God's goal for you now? Prayerfully allow Him to empower you to that end.



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