

# JAMES

## Lesson 4: Temptations (James 1:12-17)

6 December 2019

James 1:2-11 is a discussion about holy trials that are for the believer's benefit. Beginning at verse number 12, the subject turns to unholy temptations which Satan places in your path, attempting to draw you away from God and into sin. Christians are not immune to temptations. Our body of flesh (the old man, Eph 4:22) makes us susceptible to the Devil's enticements. The apostle Paul described the struggles every believer is going to have with temptations in this "body of death" (Romans 7:18-25). Jesus Christ is the only man who ever lived who was tempted and remained "without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

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**Vs 12** We must endure temptations. Believers receive a crown for resisting the Devil and staying true to God.

**Vs 13** God cannot be tempted, and He is not the tempter (1 Thess 3:5). The Devil is the tempter (Matthew 4:1-3).

1. It is not a sin to be tempted. Jesus was led of the Spirit to be tempted by the Devil (Matt 4:1).
2. Being tempted is not the result of being out of God's will. Jesus was in God's will, and He was tempted.

**Vs 14** How does Satan's temptation catch a man?

1. He cannot force anybody to sin. The Devil didn't "*make you do it.*" He gives his sales pitch and tries to convince you to do something by enticing your lusts and presenting you with an opportunity to sin.
2. He has a tailor-made temptation just for you to suit your "**own lust.**" He knows which sin doth so easily beset us (Heb 12:1).

**Vs 15** If you have chosen to entertain the temptation, a conception will be made.

**The conception:** your lust, joined with Satan's temptation.

**The result:** you'll bring forth sin (see Matt 15:19 for a sample of the sins that can proceed from your heart).

That sin will result in death (Romans 6:23). You can't "**walk in newness of life**" (Rom 6:4) while you are walking in sin. Sin will kill your ability to produce any spiritual fruit.

**James 4:4** Why are Christians called "**adulterers and adulteresses**" when they sin?

We have been espoused to Jesus Christ. We are His chaste virgin (2 Cor 11:2). But when we allow our heart to be joined to the things of the world instead of the things of God, we are being unfaithful to our bridegroom and we sin against Him.

We commit this adultery at the very first desire to sin. It begins with the will: "**whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**" That desire (your will) to sin is the conception that brings forth the sin.

We must resist the Devil and he will flee (James 4:7). Abstain from all desire to sin.

**2 Cor 10:5** We must bring our thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ to prevent the conception that brings forth sin. We need to control our thoughts and imaginations.

**1 Cor 10:13** The temptations you will face are common to man (Every man is tempted, James 1:14).

But God is faithful. We must trust Him to show us the way to escape the temptation.

**Vs 17** Every good and perfect gift comes from God, not the world. God's gifts "cometh" (they are continually coming down). God does not vary or change His mind. His gifts and blessings keep on coming.

Stay where the good things are. Don't let temptations lure you away from a sure thing. Dwell on God's goodness (James 1:17) and mercy (Rom 12:1) and you can live a holy life.

**1 Cor 10:13** God will not allow Satan to tempt me with something too powerful for me to resist.

Unfortunately, that means every time I sin, it was my choice to sin. Every sin is a willful transgression. You might call it a mistake, but it's still sin.

**"With the temptation:"** the way of escape is provided at the very moment the temptation is presented. If you don't take the way of escape when it's presented, your lust will conceive and bring forth sin. At that point God will chasten you as a disobedient son (Heb 12:6-11).

Reading and meditating upon God's word daily will arm you with the strength to resist temptations (Psalm 119:11). Spending your time on worldly amusements will make you easy prey for the Devil's temptations (Psalm 101:3, 2 Samuel 11:2).

**Luke 4:3-12** **"If thou be the Son of God..."** (vs 3) The tempter will first try to get you to question the word of God (Gen 3:1).

**"Command this stone that it be made bread."** The lust of the flesh (1 Jn 2:16, Gen 3:6). Satan will attempt to get you to put yourself first (self-gratification).

**"It is written..."** (vs 4) Knowing and trusting the Bible is the best defense against Satan's attacks. You won't need to waste any time considering the proposal to sin. You'll instantly look for the way of escape provided by God.

**"The devil...shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world"** (vs 5). The lust of the eyes. The crown without the cross (Matt 16:24). The easy way (Prov 16:25). Take a shortcut (Eccl 10:8).

**"Cast thyself down..they shall bear thee up..."** (vs 9). The pride of life. The temptation to do the right thing in the wrong way at the wrong time.

The Devil will attempt to use scripture to deceive a person. Here he misquoted Psalm 91:11-12.

### **Blessings that come from enduring temptation (vs 12)**

1. Good and perfect gifts are coming down from God when I stay where I'm supposed to.
2. Satan departs for a season (Luke 4:13). He flees when you resist (James 4:7).
3. You will receive power from the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14) to spread abroad the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Vs 16** Do not err! Some Christians call their sins *"errors"* or *"mistakes,"* but not sin. The Bible commands the Christian not to err. If you do, you have sinned. Ignorance is not an excuse (Leviticus 4:22-27).

### **Why does lust conceive and bring forth sin?**

1. You're not saved (Luke 8:13). You believe the facts about the gospel, but never received the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart.
  2. You don't pray (Matthew 26:40-41).
  3. You desire to be rich in worldly possessions (1 Timothy 6:6-9).
  4. You have companions who are living in sin (Galatians 6:1, Prov 13:20, 1 Cor 15:33).
  5. You don't believe you could fall in time of temptation (1 Cor 10:12, Prov 16:18, Matt 26:33-34).
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