

A TIME TO GROW UP
"Resisting Temptation"
James 1:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. **James 1:12**
2. *God is concerned with "Practical Christianity."*
3. *"We learn theology so we don't have to be Christian."*
4. **Remember** - God allows trials in our lives to bring us to spiritual adulthood.
 - a) AND to develop an intimate love relationship between you and Jesus.
5. **INTERESTING FACT:** The Greek word for "trials" and "temptations" is exactly the same word.
 - a) The translation is determined by the context.

THREE TRUTHS OF TEMPTATION

I. THE CORE OF TEMPTATION - (It's objective)

1. Temptation is "*an invitation to do evil.*"
2. Trials sent by God are designed by God for your spiritual growth.
 - a) A temptation is designed by Satan for your destruction.
 - b) There is even a stronger connection between the two besides the Greek word.
3. Temptation is an opportunity to do something wrong.
4. Satan's goal is to take the trials God sends to grow you up and turn them into temptation to sin.
5. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
6. **VERY IMPORTANT:** It is when you learn to love God, that you will trust God in trials.

II. THE CAUSE OF TEMPTATION

A. NOT FROM GOD

1. Vs 13

2. **Very Important:** God doesn't lead anyone to sin.
 - a) He will not accommodate sin.
 - b) He cannot initiate sin.
 - c) He is totally and utterly separate from sin.

B. COMES FROM WITHIN

1. Vs 14

- a) *"by his own desire"*

2. VERY IMPORTANT: You and I sin because we choose to sin!!

- a) You can't blame God!!!
- b) You can't blame Satan!!!
- c) WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN ACTIONS.

3. The source of sin is - **The Flesh.**

C. BLAMING OTHERS

1. *Genesis 3:12*

2. VERY IMPORTANT: Until we take full responsibility, the problem cannot be fixed.

3. *1 John 1:9*

4. The source of sin is **WITHIN.**

III. THE COURSE OF TEMPTATION

A. FROM DESIRE TO DECEPTION

1. Vs 14

- a) *"evil desire"*
 - 1) KJV - Lust

2. Vs 14

- a) *"each person is tempted when he is...lured and enticed"*
 - 1) *"Lure"* - the power of attraction, to be drawn away
 - 2) *"enticed"* - means to lead on by excitement.
 - a) to bait

- b) We get dragged into sin when we allow our desires to lead us straight into Satan's deception.

3. We never see **THE CONSEQUENCES** of our sin.

a) **BUT SATAN DOES.**

4. **Satan entices us while hiding the consequences.**

5. **Romans 5:12**

6. **Genesis 3:16-19**

B. FROM DECEPTION TO DISOBEDIENCE

1. From **DESIRE** to **DECEPTION**

a) From **DECEPTION** to **DISOBEDIENCE**

2. **Vs 15a**

3. **NOW WATCH THIS:** When you follow through on an enticement and your **DESIRE** leads you to **DISOBEY** God, a **CONCEPTION** takes place.

a) Your act of **DISOBEDIENCE** gives birth to a child called **SIN.**

4. **Matthew 5:28**

5. **LIVE** the Christian life is an act of the will. Not an **EMOTION.**

C. FROM DISOBEDIENCE TO DEATH

1. **Vs 15**

2. Sin has the power of reproduction.

a) And Satan is the father of this mess.

3. **Genesis 2:17**

a) They died spiritually and would eventually die physically.

CONCLUSION: The Solution to God's Character

1. Remember God is **Good**

a) **Vs 17**

1) **"Father of lights"**

a. God created the Sun, Moon and the Stars. **ALL GOOD!**

b. You can depend on them.

2) So the point is His goodness never changes.

2. Remember God's Word gives birth to new life.

a) Vs 18a

1) God's Word also has reproductive power.

2) 1 John 3:9

3. Remember God has a plan for your life.

a) Vs 18b

b) That means you are special.