

“Trials & Temptations”
James 1:12-18
Series: Got Faith? Get to Work!

Someone once said, "I don't struggle with temptations, I just give into them!" But, surely this is not the answer when we face temptations. It may relieve the pressure of resisting temptation, but it does nothing to deal with the consequences of caving to temptation. How can we face temptation and overcome it? It is to this subject that James now turns our attention.

I. Don't be surprised by temptation (vs. 12).

- ▶ There is no sin in being tempted.
- ▶ Temptation is inevitable.
- ▶ Temptation is personal.

II. Understand the source of temptation (vs. 13-15).

- A. God is not the author of temptation.
- B. The source of our temptations our own sinful desires.
- C. Our failure to resist temptation is not an event, but a process.
 - ▶ The process begins with desire.
 - ▶ Our desire then leads us into deception.
 - ▶ Our self deception leads to disobedience.
 - ▶ Death is the end result of our sin.

- ▶ “The fulfillment of our lust brings about in the believer’s life a death-like existence.”

Chuck Swindoll

III. Don't be deceived by it (vs. 16-18).

- A. Sin will make you think that it is the best for you.
 - ▶ Satan does not give good gifts.
 - ▶ God's gifts are good and perfect.
- B. God is not responsible for our temptations.
 - ▶ But, God is the initiator of salvation.
- C. When it comes to temptation, it is not how close you can get before sinning. It is how far away from the temptation you can get.

IV. For Further Reflection

- A. In what areas are you most often tempted? Do you tend to dance near the edges or have you learned to stay as far away from them as possible.
- B. 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that promises that God will not allow any temptation in our lives that we cannot handle and that He will always provide a way out. Have you claimed this promise? When temptation strikes to you look for the way out or ignore it?
- C. Jesus responded to temptation by quoting the Bible. Have you learned to rely on scripture when tempted?
- D. For next week, study James 1:19-27.