

HOW TO DEAL WITH TEMPTATION

James: A Faith That Works - Part 2

James 1:13-18, 4:1-10

1. _____ RESPONSIBILITY

(Don't blame God, people, or my circumstances)

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God', for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."

James 1:13-14 (ESV)

2. _____ TEMPTATION IS A BAIT AND SWITCH

"Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death." James 1:15 (ESV)

3. _____ THAT GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL GOOD

"Do not be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures."

James 1:16-18 (ESV)

4. _____ GOD TO MEET MY LEGITIMATE NEEDS WITH A RIGHT MOTIVE

"What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, 'He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us'?" James 4:1-5 (ESV)

5. _____ MYSELF BEFORE GOD TO RECEIVE GRACE FOR HOLY LIVING

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Life Group Discussion

1. Open with prayer and take a few minutes for everyone to share how their week has been.

Read James 1:13-18

2. What sorts of temptations are we more vulnerable to under stress and pressure?
3. Have you ever been tempted to blame God and question his goodness because of a severe trial? Share about it.
4. When do I cross the line from a healthy awareness of my weak area's to blaming? Why is it important to know that the root of temptation is inside of me rather than outside of me?
5. Have you ever been the victim of a bait and switch tactic at a store? How is temptation like that? Can you think of an example?

Read James 4:1-10

6. What does James say is at the heart of our relational problems?
7. What desire could be at the root of cutting others? Having to have my way? Immoral relationship? Stealing or lack of integrity to gain money?
8. Why do we resist asking God for what we need or want?
9. What are some examples of right and wrong motives in prayer?
10. What does James mean by "friendship with the world"? In what way has worldliness worked its way into your life?
11. What is one thing you can put into practice from Sunday's message?
12. Take time to pray for each other's needs