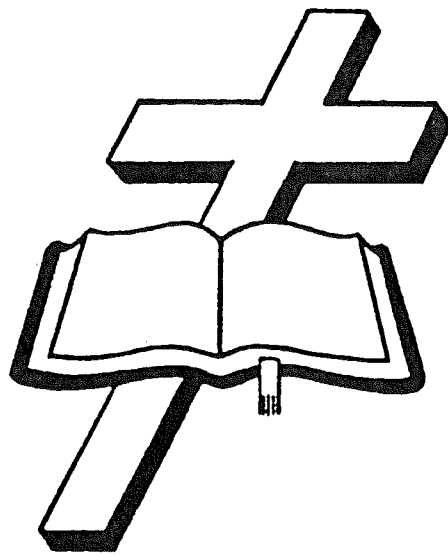


VICTORIOUS IN TEMPTATION

James 1:13-18



Temptations Process Revealed

- ◆ Desire
- ◆ Deception
- ◆ Disobedience
- ◆ Death

“Do not err, my beloved brethren” (James 1:16)

Bill Kirk

“VICTORIOUS IN TEMPTATION”

Text: James 1:13-18

Subject: Overcoming Temptation That Comes To All.

Introduction

Fact: Temptation is a part of this earthly life.

Fact: Temptation comes to everyone in some way.

Fact: Temptation can be overcome by every believer.

Question: What is temptation?

Answer: The word “Tempt” means 4 things:

- #1. To solicit to do evil.
- #2. To allure into wrong doing.
- #3. To seduce or persuade.
- #4. To entice to bad choices by the promise of gain.

Question: Where does temptation come from?

Answer: It comes from within the heart of man’s fallen nature (never from God).

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man” (v. 13)

(In his great essay on “Temptation”, Dietrich Bonhoeffer gives a vivid picture of the battle ground:)

“In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames. It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire or ambition or vanity or desire for revenge or love of fame and power or greed for money...at this moment God is quite unreal to us. He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real...the powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us”.

Think Of Those Powerful Statements:

- #1. “Desire seizes mastery over the flesh”
- #2. “A smoldering fire is kindled”
- #3. “At this moment God is quite unreal”
- #4. “Only desire for the creature is real”
- #5. “The powers of clear decision are taken from us”

Why Does God Allow Us To Be Tempted?

1. To help us grow and mature by saying no to sin and yes to God.
2. To bring to the surface what already resides in the inner heart.
3. To trigger a choice and provoke a definite stand of action.
4. To prove our loyalty to God by not grieving His presence in our lives.

Examples:

1. Doing your income tax with opportunity to cheat. (Your choice reveals what's in your heart).
2. Eating in McDonalds and you see someone drop a \$20 bill. (Your choice, keep it or return it reveals what's in your heart).
3. Fellowshiping at a gathering and you hear someone gossip or slander another. (Your choice, pass it on or put it to death, reveals what's in your heart).

Temptation Takes On Many Forms

1. A stop at the corner bar after work.
2. A secret fantasy about someone you know.
3. A desire to get even with someone who has offended you.
4. A choice to listen to a vulgar joke at work.
5. A choice to neglect prayer and the Word for more T.V.
6. A desire to keep the tithe that belongs to God.
7. A low rated movie while away on a business trip.

Never Forget This:

- ◆ God will test you (vs. 1-12) to develop Godly character in you.
- ◆ Satan will tempt you (vs. 13-16) to destroy your witness of God's power.

The Process Of Temptation Revealed

1. **Desire** (V. 14)

The word "**Lust**" means any kind of desire, not necessarily sexual passions. The normal desires of life were given to us by God, and of themselves are not sinful. Without these desires we could not function.

- A. Eating is normal, (Gluttony is sin).
- B. Sleep is normal, (Laziness is sin).
- C. The marriage bed is undefiled, (Adultery is sin).

- ◆ It is when we want (desire) to satisfy normal desires outside of God's will that we bargain for trouble.

(V. 14) "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, (desire)".

(Which Means:)

That the fountain or source of all temptation is in man himself. External inducements to sin may be placed before us by satan, but they would have no force if there was not something in man to which they correspond.

(In Other Words)

There must be some desire, some inclination or some pulling which resides in every heart. (We all must be on guard for the old adamic nature to express its desire through us).

Remember #1- While the bait is external and becomes the object of our interest, the lust (or desire) rests in every victim's heart.

#2. **Deception:** (V. 14)

"But every man is tempted when he is **drawn away**...(v. 14) (A powerful revelation)

"**Drawn away**" carries the idea of baiting a trap (as a hunter stalking its prey).

"**Enticed**" (means:) "To bait a hook" (As the fisherman disguises a hook with bait).

God Reveals

- A. No temptation appears as temptation; it always seems more alluring than it really is.
- B. As the hunter or fisherman use bait to attract their prey (for no animal deliberately steps into a trap nor will any fish knowingly bite at a naked hook) so satan hides the trap and the hook.
- C. Temptation then, always carries with it some bait that appeals to our natural desires.
- D. This bait not only attracts us, but it also hides the fact that yielding to the desire will bring great sorrow. (The bait only, is the exciting thing).

Illustration:

Lot and Sodom – David and Bathsheba

Remember #2 – The bait, satan’s secret weapon that keeps us from seeing the consequences of sin!

Question: What is our secret weapon (the one that Jesus used to combat temptation?)

Answer: The Word of God; for when you know the Word, you can detect the bait and deal with it decisively.

3. Disobedience (V. 15)

“Then when lust (desire) has conceived, it bringeth forth sin...”

James changes the picture from hunting and fishing to the birth of a baby. Desire conceives a method for taking the bait. The will approves and acts and the result is sin. Whether we feel it or not, we are hooked and trapped. The baby is born and just wait until it matures!!!

Look What Is Involved:

First: Emotions (**Desire**)

Second: Our intellect (**Deception**)

Third: Our will. (**Disobedience**)

A Fact:

Christian living is a matter of the will, not feelings. “I don’t feel like reading the Word” (Or) “I don’t feel like attending prayer meeting” are characteristic of children.

Children operate on the basis of feeling, adults operate on the basis of will. **They act because it is right, not because of how they feel.**

Fact: The more you exercise your will in saying “No” to temptation, the more God will take control of your life” (Philippians 2:13)

Remember #3 – Our safeguard will be as we act from our will, not our feelings. And what we conceive we have to live with.

#4. Death (V. 15)

“And sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death”

◆ Disobedience gives birth to death, not life.

(Pg. 3 of 4)

- ◆ Believing this truth will encourage us not to yield to temptation.
- ◆ And God has erected this barrier for us, all because He loves us.

Remember #4: - Whenever you are faced with temptation, look beyond the bait and hook, and see the consequences of sin – **The Judgment of God!** (“For the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23)

A Plea From God

“Do not err, my beloved brethren” (v. 16) meaning...

...Do not be led down the wrong path, believing satan’s lies that unchecked desires will not be carried out in reality through you. Remember, what is in you, will eventually come out in time. (Pay me now, or pay me later).

How To Overcome Temptation:

Fact: All temptation attacks our thoughts.

Fact: Every evil thought is sin in its embryo stage.

Fact: Fiery darts of the wicked in (Ephesians 6:16) are intended to draw us away from God.

Fact: Our wills become weaker the longer we entertain the notion.

Thus:

- ◆ The God ordained way to overcome the temptation is to push the wrong thoughts out of our mind, and immediately focus our thoughts upon Jesus and His truth.
- ◆ We can be continually prepared to resist temptation through meditation upon the Word (Psalm 1) and willfully making no provision for the flesh. (Romans 13:14)

Just A Thought:

(Primary Temptations Leading To Destruction)

#1. **“Self” Preoccupation** (Which is):

- ◆ An inflated opinion of self importance born out of pride.
- ◆ An unhealthy attitude rooted in insecurity and unhealed past injuries.

#2. **“Silver” Attractions** (Which is):

- ◆ Excessive desire and attachment to money, things, toys and stuff.
- ◆ Discontentment that doesn’t allow you to enjoy what you have.

#3. **“Sexual” Indulgence** (Which is):

- ◆ Allowing an impure thought life to flirt and fantasize with forbidden fruit.
- ◆ Fueling physical passions in unwholesome and unspiritual ways.

#4. **“Slothful” Behavior** (Which is):

- ◆ Failing to be diligent in spiritual disciplines (prayer, the Word, worship, etc.)
- ◆ Wanting the rewards of devotion without paying the price.

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor
(Pg. 4 of 4)

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Zechariah 4:1-14)



GOD WILL DO IT AGAIN!

- ◆ Power From Above You
- ◆ Promise From Around You
- ◆ Praise From Within You

*“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts”
(Zechariah 4:6)*

Bill Kirk