

Living by Faith III: James

"Over Temptations"

James 1: 13-18

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on August 27, 2017

Entering In:

Have you ever tried to tempt someone to sin? Why do you think you did that?

1. Describe some general characteristics of temptations:

- By whom
- To whom
- Why?
- How?
- When?

2. What are the two reasons James says that we should not say "God is tempting us"? Explain them in terms of God's nature.

- A.
- B.

How can James be so sure that everyone is vulnerable to temptation because of "their own evil desire"?

Did Adam and Eve have this *evil desire* in their hearts in the Garden of Eden?

- If so, how did it get there?
- If not, what kind of *desire* led them to sin?

Does James explain the origin of evil in this passage?

- If so, what is his explanation?
- If not, why not?

3. When we are tempted, why are we ultimately responsible for the outcome of the temptation?

Is every desire that you have necessarily evil? What makes your desire evil?

Give an example of how each of the following harmless baits (lures) could become serious temptations:

- A. Christian music
- B. Success
- C. Food
- D. Other

We often justify (rationalize) our own sins. What does this behavior have to do with *shifting shadows*?

In light of our knowledge of what God is like, what would be a better way to *explain* our sin(s) when we fall into temptation?

4. What are the three stages of temptation?

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At what point in that process can you disrupt the cycle so that you can resist the temptation (I Corinthians 10:13)?

What kind of death does James imply in verse 15? (cf. Deuteronomy 30:15)

Explain, based on Romans 8:1, 31, why “death” in verse 15 cannot be referring to either physical or spiritual death.

5. When God asked Adam if he had eaten from the tree which he commanded him not to eat from, what was Adam’s response (Genesis 3:12)?

Why do you think we tend to blame others for our failures?

What can we (you) do to avoid blaming others for our own failures?

6. About what does James exhort us not to be deceived?

Taking the word “every” to its extreme, does that mean cannabis is a good and perfect gift from above? How would you respond to a person who uses this verse to justify his recreational use of marijuana?

List some of the good and perfect gifts God has given to you.

What is one gift from God that you often fail to appreciate?

7. What have we received through the *word of truth*?

What was God’s purpose in giving us this *birth*?

Contrasting that with the process outlined in verse 14, what does this imply about our future?

Why do you think it is necessary to remain in the word of truth in order to overcome temptations?

What are you doing to remain in the Word?

Living It Out:

All of us struggle with temptations every day.

Pray for yourself and for one or two others for grace to resist temptations to sin.

Thank God for the good and perfect gifts that he lavishes on you every day.

