

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 1:12-15

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-295 MAY 17, 1998

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of the Text vv. 12-15

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

James 1:12-15

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

The **purpose** of tests

Chapter 1:1-11

And the **source** of temptations

Chapter 1:12-18

2 Corinthians 2:11

beware, lest Satan should take advantage of us;
for we are not ignorant of his devices.

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

Because Satan wants to completely suck every bit of life out of you and leave you a heap of ruined flesh - spiritually sterile and unable to be a witness to others in this life.

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

Because it is through you, that Satan can inflict pain into the heart of God

We are between two spiritual worlds that desire us:
The realm of Satan & the realm of God

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

Because God is using the things of this life to develop in us
a depth of spiritual character

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

Because through us, using what Satan has designed, God will use it to overthrow the
plan of Satan and ultimately defeat him

- Because there is a real personal devil - the devil
- Because our flesh is fallen, sagging at best - the flesh
- Because we are supernatural beings - the world

I John 2:16-17

For all that is in the world-- (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eyes, and (3) the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

The devil

who was in the garden

The flesh

which is under our skin

The world

that is all around us

Galatians 5:16-17

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of the Text 1:12-15

Satan Desires to Disapprove You
using Temptation

The Lord's Desire is to Approve You
overcoming Temptation

Example:

Matthew 4:1-3

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

"Why am I Being Tempted?"

1.) There's a Victorious Condition for those who Endure

Blessed is the man who **endures temptation**; for when he has been **approved**, he will receive **the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1a.) Because of a Deep Happiness that Comes

vv. 12a

Blessed is the man who **endures temptation**:

* **blessed** grk 3107 makarios (mak-ar'-ee-os);
super blest; very honored or well off:
happy, happier, happiness belongs to those who are

**It's a happiness that belongs to those who
endure temptations**

* **Endures** grk 5278 hupomeno (hoop-om-en'-o);
to stay under the examination. to undergo or to bear the load, to
have anticipation of deliverance

Confident that God Loves you

1 Corinthians 13:7

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
and **endures** all things.

Jude 1:21

keep yourselves in the **love** of God, **looking for** the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Matthew 10:22

"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who **endures** to the end will be saved.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Temptation

This is One of the Most Confusing Areas in All of the Christian's Life

Is temptation from God or is it from Satan?

James 1:2

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various **trials**,

James 1:12a

Blessed is the man who endures **temptation**;

((Same word - a **noun**))

But in verses 13 & 14

James 1:13a,14

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"...

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Tempted & tempted

((It is a **verb** and not a noun))

* **Temptation** **grk 3986 peirasmos (pi-ras-mos')**;
from 3985; a putting to proof (by experiment [of good],
experience [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation);
by implication, adversity:

Matthew 6:9-13

therefore when you pray, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

There's a Victorious Condition for those who Endure

1b.) Because his faith in God is Made Genuine

vv. 12b

For when he has been **approved**,

* **approved** grk 1384 dokimos (dok'-ee-mos);
tried in the sense of becoming more brilliant. displayed as
acceptable or tested in a way to bring out the best - approved:

God Tests Us to Approve Us
Satan Tests Us to Destroy Us

“Why Am I Being Tempted?”
so that I might be even more like Jesus

1c.) We will be rewarded at the End of Our Course

vv. 12c

He will receive **the crown of life**
which **the Lord has promised** to those who love Him.

The crown of life

A Promise to the Overcomer

Revelation 2:8a,10-11

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,
..... ¹⁰ **Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you..... the crown of life.** ¹¹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

((This is the promise given to the endurer, the sheep,
the believer, the one who's been born again, the Christian...))

The Crown of Life is for All those who

Endure Unto the End

Am I Going to Make It?

John 10:27-29

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

Psalm 138:8

The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.

1 Peter 1:5-9

we who are kept by the power of God through faith **for salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice (our salvation), though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ **whom having not seen you love**. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith--
the salvation of your souls.

God loves Us, God is For Us,
He Even Likes Us

"Why am I Being Tempted?"

2.) So That We might Better Know the Will of God vv. 13

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am **tempted** by God"; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, nor does He Himself **tempt** anyone.

"Tempted" the Verb:
the act of being pressured to sin

- **Abraham** when he went down into Egypt
- **Lot** when he chose the cities of Sodom & Gomorra
- **David** when he looked the second time a Bathsheba

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

2a.) To Discredit the Powers that are Against us

vv. 13

Let no one say when he is tempted,
"I am **tempted** by God"; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil,
nor does He Himself **tempt** anyone.

To Blame or to Attack God

To Blame or to Attack Others

To Blame or to Attack the Environment

James 4:1-4

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

((Christian and or non-christian))

**Stop justifying your Position
(Like King Saul)**

Genesis 3

Genesis 3:8-13

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

And The Serpent Didn't Have a Leg to Stand On

The fact is, temptation is from Satan, but God will use what Satan has engineered for evil, to make it out for good

Thus discrediting Satan's Tempting

2 Peter 2:9a KJV

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations,

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

The Lord Pulls the Mask Off the Temptation!

Christians Need to Get Smart Now
regarding Trials and Temptations

The Context of the Situation Determines the Nature of the Situation

- Temptations will challenge you to disobey God
- Trials will challenge you to Trust in God
- Temptations Pull you away from God
- Trials draw you closer to God

The Lord is desiring to Build us Up

Many Christians view God as the great hinderer to their spiritual progress
- like He's trying to prevent you from having joy and happiness

“Why am I Being Tempted?”

3.) So that I will Overcome Satan Here and Now vv. 14-15

But each one is tempted (1) when he is drawn away by his **own desires** and **enticed**. ¹⁵ Then, (2) when desire has conceived, it gives birth to (3) sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, (4) brings forth death.

4 steps to total destruction

- * **drawn away** **grk 1828 exelko (ex-el'-ko);**
to drag forth from a spot. To lure out into the open
Fishing terminology
- * **own desires** **grk 1939 epithumia (ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah);**
forbidden longing = lusts
Fishing terminology
- * **enticed** **grk 1185 deleazo (del-eh-ad'-zo);**
to hook or to net, to entrap, to beguile by trickery
Fishing terminology

Here's the Picture: A Fish is Swimming Around

Sin Never Tells the Truth about its Self

Hi There Big Boy

My Name's Bubbles, - you can call me Lucy

*Together, let's totally destroy your home and your life and everything that
God has given you...*

14 But each one is tempted (1) when he is drawn away by his **own desires** and (2) **enticed**.

*Hi there Good Buddy - I'm Crack Cocaine
Wanna get hooked on me and ruin your life?*

15 Then, (3) when desire has conceived,
it gives birth to (4) sin;

Good morning sunshine

I'm auto immune deficiency syndrome, you can call me HIV for short - Wanna have sex and die from the inside out

and sin, when it is full-grown, (5) brings forth death.

Hebrews 11:25

warns us that sin is pleasurable for a season !!!
but for just a season, then comes the harvest season

OWN

(A devilish place to be)

A position is taken

"I want this thing / person / position"

- The dividing line between Temptation and sin
- When he is "Drawn Away" by his own Desires and Enticements

The Children of Israel

Being Called out of Egypt and placed in the Promised Land

Egypt was a type of the world

The crossing of the Jordan river was a type of the believer being born again
Canaan land, the Promised land, was a depiction of the Christian's earthly experience

THE BELIEVER'S LIFE FOR NOW IS
a struggle and a fight

1 Peter 2:11 NIV

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in this world,
to abstain from sinful desires, **which war against your soul.**

* **War** grk 4754 **strateuomai (strat-yoo'-om-ahee);**
to serve as a soldier in a military campaign; to execute arduous duties for a specific purpose, to contend, fight and wrestle against an enemy power:

* **Root** grk 4756 **stratia (strat-ee'-ah)**
derivative of **stratos** (an army either of earthly resources or spiritual powers that have become encamped) **angelic, celestial luminaries:**

Many of our spiritual wars can be a result of supernatural activity

Most of the Time - It's the Flesh

Romans 7:14-25 NIV

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 8:1a

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Why Didn't God Just Prevent it From Happening?

Because you loved it - more than God

The Lifecycle of Sin

James Personifies Sin

He Likens Mr. Death and Ms. Destruction as one's who've had their beginnings a long time ago, with a thought that was in their parent's mind, which they entertained. It led to temptation, that led them to a desire,

which in turn, led them to an act of doing it, that led to a pregnancy with sin, then little sin was born, eventually he grew up and died the death

Are You in Trouble?

Are you excited about God today and energetic about doing His will, not yours?

(Only two of em' jack - well then this message caught you en route to destruction)

Do You Want Out of Your Sin?

#1

Then **Decide in** Your Head Now to Come Back to God
(do the right thing)

realize

Humble yourself - void of self-justification

#2

Now **Act Upon** the Decision You're Making Today
(flee, run, escape from the sin you're in)

repenting

Throw yourself upon God's mercy - you cannot fix yourself

#3

Walk in Reunion with God
(staying with him around the clock, day by year by life)

rejoicing

Because God is faithful to forgive if we will realize & repent

#4

Take up the Weapons of this Spiritual Warfare
(Know what the will of God is, His Nature, His Word)

resisting

and you will never again be overtaken by temptation

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to **the power that works in us,**

Jude 1:24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Philippians 2:13,15-16a

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.....

¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life...

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Come to Christ Now

Romans 10:8-13

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."