



Sermon Series: Faith Tested
Sermon Title: The Truth about Temptation
Scripture: James 1:13-15
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, August 4, 2024

INTRODUCTION

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds..." (James 1:2)

I. THE TROUBLE WE BRING TO OUR TRIALS

"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." (James 1:13)

1) Internal temptations always accompany external trials.

"Many Christians are supersaturated with education, biblical knowledge, inspiring examples of moral successes, and sobering warnings from moral failure. YET far too many have driven headlong into temptation, suffering disaster in work, church, and the home. Temptation knows no limits. It respects no title. It plays no favorites. It ignores all human obstacles, cares nothing about the time of day or night, and camouflages itself in any situation, prepared to pounce at any moment." (Chuck Swindoll)

"WATCH and PRAY that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)

"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." (James 1:13)

2) God is not the problem; God is the solution!

"EVERY good gift and EVERY perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17)

3) Remember the character of God!

"...for GOD cannot be tempted with evil, and HE HIMSELF tempts no one." (James 1:13b)

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. GOD IS FAITHFUL, and HE will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation HE will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

“But each person IS TEMPTED when he is lured and enticed BY HIS OWN DESIRE.” (James 1:14)

4) You sin... because you want to.

“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed...” (James 1:14a)

“...what one person finds as intense temptation another person may never experience as even a faint enticement, and vice-versa. Temptations are tailored to the individual, and so we as believers must never belittle a person for struggling with something we think of as inane. Instead, we must realize that each of us has particular battles nuanced specifically for us, and we need to give both grace and exhortation to one another to stand firm in times of testing. Conversely, we must always flee temptation, regardless of how ‘little’ it may seem to us. These inner longings, James says, busily work to pull us away from our Lord.” (Craig L. Blomberg)

“Then DESIRE when it has conceived gives birth to SIN, and SIN when it is fully grown brings forth DEATH.” (James 1:15)

“The Life Cycle of Sin”

(Matthew 4:4 and 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8)

5) A good desire becomes a sinful desire when it becomes a ruling desire!

(Psalm 34:8; Psalm 16:2; John 7:37b-38)

“Then DESIRE when it has conceived gives birth to SIN, and SIN when it is fully grown brings forth DEATH.” (James 1:15)

6) Death = Separation

“For the wages of sin is DEATH, but the free gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Apply #1 - Treasure Jesus daily!

Apply #2 - PRAY! In the face of temptation... PRAY!

Apply #3 - Remember the character of God... especially His goodness!

Apply #4 - Question your desires! Don’t you dare just “accept” them!

Apply #5 - Temptations lose MUCH of their power when we drag them into the light!