

James 1:13–20

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.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Thoughts to Help with Temptation **James 1:13-20**

INTRO:

In our Study of the book of James **(1)** we learned James wanted to be identified as totally committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. **(2)** We also learned how we need to act when trouble shoulders its way into our lives. At **verse 13**, James turns to dealing with the lies we tell ourselves when temptation comes. To forearm us in our fight with sin he wrote to show us where temptation to sin comes from, to demonstrate how good God is, and finally to show us how we must live.

I. Where Temptation Comes From (13-15)

II. Our God’s Goodness (v. 16-18)

III. How Then Shall We Live? (v. 19-20)

I. Where Temptation Comes From (13-15)

James 1:13–15 *“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. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when*

desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

A. The most significant word in this section is the word ***“temptation.”*** The word is the same word we read as trials in the first 12 verses of this chapter. There we through the context know the word means trials. Here in **verse 13-20** we know the meanings is to tempt to sin. When we are tempted to sin we need to know some important truths. First, God is not the source of temptations.

“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.”

1. James commands his readers here. Stop saying when you are tempted that you are tempted from God. This is one of Satan’s favorite lies. We like to blame God for our sin. Adam started this tradition in the Garden of Eden and we are prone to continue the practice.

2. Why should we not blame God? James told us.

“For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”

God is far too good and holy to ever be tempted to sin and will not tempt us to sin. We fall into the trap the Children of Israel fell into in the wilderness. They kept impugning the Holy character and name of the living God.

B. If God is not the source of our temptation, who or what is responsible? We are. Each of us is guilty.

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

The problem is not God and His holy character, it is us and our internal corruption. We are drawn away by our strong desire and enticed. To be sure, Satan does his level best to encourage us to sin. However, it is our sinful character and sinful desires that draw us into sin. The picture in **verse 15** is hideous and should terrify us.

“Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

This is where all sin will lead if God Himself did not interrupt the process.

II. Our God’s Goodness (v. 16-18)

James 1:16-18 ***“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”***

A. We learned thus far we are not tempted because God tempted us. God is far too holy and good to tempt us. We are the problem. We might then say, “*Prove to us God is good.*” This is what James did in **verses 16-18**. He wrote,

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

Don’t be deceived, James warned us because this is a thought we can often entertain. We sometimes forget how good God is. How good is He? Everything that is good in this present life comes from Him.

1. How good is God? Every Gift that is morally good and beautiful, every gift that is exactly what is needed comes from God. Think of anything good that happens to anyone even evil people, God gave it. Nothing good comes from anywhere else.

2. Not only did God give good things in the past, God’s nature is always holy and good because God never changes. The lights seem permanent, but no shadow of changing exists in God.

B. The ultimate proof that God is good is because He gave us birth through the Word of God.

“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

Before we fall into the trap of believing God is not good remember how much it cost Him to save you.

Romans 5:6-8 ***“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

III. How Then Shall We Live? (v. 19-20)

James 1:19–20 ***“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”***

A. We must emulate our Lord. Why is this so hard to do? Much of this is because we do not recognize God can handle the situation. We must act. We really do not need to fear, we need to be like Him.

B. The second reason we need to be like Him is because our anger does not do God’s Righteous Will. God’s way is right and His will is perfect. We need to know

what that is and always do it. Why? Because in doing it we will be glorifying Him not seeking to do something He does not want done.

So what do we do when temptation to sin comes?

1. We need to put the lie to the thought that God causes us to sin.
2. We must recognize the inclination to sin arises from our fallen sinful nature.
3. We must recognize the goodness of our God.
4. Finally, we must grow to be like Him.

Hymn #58 *This Is My Father's World*