

1 **BEING RECEPTIVE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

JAMES 1:19-17

2 **How to overcome temptation (review)**

James 1:13-18

1. Remember the Penalty of Sin (Death)
 - Sin is born when lust (a perverted desire) comes together with our will (a decision in our soul)
 - When sin occurs, it results in some type of death: physical, our testimony, our relationships
 - Example of David
2. Remember the Goodness of God – example of David
3. Remember the Divine Nature within you
 - We are born of the Word of Truth and the Spirit of God

3 **REST AND GROW IN THE WORD!**

JAMES 1:19-21 – SPIRITUAL GROWTH REQUIRES:

RECEIVE THE WORD

REFUSE TO BE ANGRY

REMOVE THE FILTH FROM YOUR LIFE

RESPOND TO THE WORD

RESIGN TO THE WORD

4 **JAMES 1:19-21**

Understand this, my dear brothers: every person must be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not accomplish the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all moral uncleanness and wicked excess, welcome with humility the implanted message which is able to save your souls. (James 1:19–21, LEB)

5 **1. Receive the Word**

- James identified with his audience -- *My dear brothers*
- He then makes it clear that what follows is of great importance -- "know this" or "behold" (*iste*).
- 3 Key instructions:
 1. Be quick to listen (2 ears)
 2. Be slow to speak (only 1 mouth)
 3. Be slow to become angry

6 **2. Refuse to give in to anger**

- When there is conflict, the one who listens is slow to anger.
- The one who lashes out verbally all the time, is the one who is quick to anger. (More on that in 3:1-12)
- Anger is one letter short of DANGER.
 - Anger fails to yield the righteous life that God desires, the goal to which this epistle is committed.

7 **3. Remove the filth from your life**

- Put away all moral filth
 - 1:21 -- Consequently it is essential to put away, or remove, all moral filth (*ryparian*, used only here in the NT; cf. *rypara*, "shabby," in 2:2) and all the abundance of evil
- Get rid of worldly influences

- Remove the inputs to the flesh

8 4. Ruminating on God's word

- Humbly (lit., "in meekness") receive the implanted Word.
 - **implanted** — marked by being deeply fixed or set within something. [Jas 1:21](#) δέξασθε τὸν ἔμφυτον λόγον
 - The Word is to be ingrown or inborn, rooted in the fertile soil of the soul. It is that Word of God which can save.
 - A meek person focuses on their responsibilities rather than their rights. A person focused on their own rights will not let the Word of God change their life.
- For the Word of God to truly change you, meditate / ruminate ("chew your cud") on the Word until it is a part of you.

9 The effect of real interaction with God's word

- It is able to save your soul (not found in NIV but is in the Greek).
- We are made in God's image. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We are spirit, soul, and body.
 - For every 1 mention of our body (10%)
 - the Bible mentions our soul 3 times (30%)
 - and our spirit 6 times (60%)

10 THE BATTLES IN OUR SOUL

11 How our "trinity" works

- Our spirit listens to God.
- Our body listens to the world.
- The soul:
 - Our thinking, feeling, and decisions are in our soul (or *psyche*)

12 Why meditating and fasting are important

- When we do not memorize, meditate/ruminate, on God's Word, we are depriving ourselves of spiritual input to make wise decisions.
- When we fast, we are depriving our souls from the inputs of the world and the flesh. So fasting and spending time in God's Word is the most helpful thing you can do to make wise decisions.

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14 The 3 things that build strongholds in our soul

- *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* (1 John 2:16, KJV 1900)
- Lust of the flesh – Sexual immorality; pornography
- Lust of the eyes – Greed; covetousness; gambling
- The pride of life – Believing that people and circumstances should have treated you better than they did; bitterness
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15 Steps to retake the ground of your soul

1. Confess the sin. *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;* (Hebrews 12:15, KJV 1900)
2. Ask God to regain the surrendered ground (Psalm 23:3) – only He can take back the ground.

3. Tear down strongholds with truth – meditate and ruminate on the Word of God to replace lies with truth.
4. Demonstrate right actions such as forgiving your offender.
- 5.

16 **The big takeaway**

- You must be INTENTIONAL about meditating on God’s Word.
- You must be INTENTIONAL to ask God to take back ground that you have surrendered to Satan through bitterness, greed, or immorality.
- You must be INTENTIONAL to fast and meditate periodically – especially for key decisions.
- NONE of these things happens by routine or automatically.