

James

(4) Temptations to Sin

James 1:13-15

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. NIV

A special trial, and a warning...1:13-15

Up to now the trial's have been basically of our *faith*. What does James now address? 1:13

This test is a temptation to do evil (sin). This trial is usually 'common to man', 1Cor.10:13

How do we know for sure that Christians are not immune to such tests? Mt.4:1; Heb.4:15

Christ was tempted to sin, in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Why is this truth so important for true believers to know and understand? Heb.4:15-16

Our High Priest, Christ, understands our temptations, so come boldly for mercy / grace!

What does James make very clear about temptation to sin? 1:13 see Prov.19:3

Temptation to sin is NEVER from God! He cannot be tempted to sin, nor tempt anyone.

Then where does the temptation to sin originate? 1:14; Gen.3:6

It's internal! By our own evil desire, we're dragged away and enticed.

What is included in the term 'evil desire' or 'lust'? 1:14; Gen.3:6-7

It's not limited to sexual lusting. It's a deep, strong desire/longing of any kind, good/bad.

What are the terms 'dragged away' and 'enticed' pointing toward? 1:14

We, ourselves, bait the hook, fuel the temptation, and drag ourselves away (into sin)!

When we take our own bait, what happens? 1:15; see Rev.20:14-15

The lust (desire) gives birth to sin and sin, when mature, gives birth to death (spiritual).

James 1:16-18 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

What stern warning does James give to believers in 1:16? Why?? Gen.3:12-13

Don't be deceived (about what God gives to us). We want to blame God as our defense.

What does James point out in 1:17? Heb.13:8

Everything good and perfect is a gift from Him. He does not change at all.

And the ultimate example of God's perfect gifts is...? 1:18a

It is His gift of choosing us in the new birth, that is He chose us for salvation. Highest good!

As His chosen ones, what do believers represent? 1:18b

We are a kind of firstfruits of all that He created. Promise of a great harvest to come!!