



“YOU CAN HANDLE TEMPTATION”

James 1:13-18

Last week I shared that trials are a part of life and that when trials occur they are only tests to make our faith stronger. We learned that there is a definite difference between trials and temptations. Trials are ordeals—tests of our faith. Normally, there is nothing immoral involved in experiencing a trial. A trial is a hardship, an ordeal. But it is generally not something that is evil or brought about by evil.

Temptation is “the act of enticement to do wrong, by promise of pleasure or gain.” Temptation motivates one to be bad by promising something good. This morning I want to share a few thoughts from the Word of God on how you can handle temptations. Keep in mind that we will all be tempted at one time or another during our lifetime.

I. Four Facts About Temptation – James 1:13-15

- A. Temptation is inevitable. – James 1:13
- B. Temptation is never directed by God. – James 1:13; 1 John 1:5
- C. Temptation is an individual matter. – James 1:14
- D. Temptation that leads to sin always follows the same overall process. – James 1:14
 - Step 1: The bait is dropped. – Genesis 39
 - Step 2: The inner desire is attracted to the bait.
 - Step 3: Sin occurs when we yield; when we bite the bait.
 - Step 4: Sin results in tragic consequences. We end up hooked and fried.

II. Consider God’s Judgement – James 1:13-16

- A. Desire – James 1:14
- B. Deception – James 1:14
- C. Disobedience – James 1:14
- D. Death – James 1:15

III. Consider God’s Goodness – James 1:17

- A. God gives only good gifts. – 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- B. The way God gives is good.
- C. God gives constantly.
- D. God does not change.

IV. Consider God’s Divine Nature Within You – James 1:18

- A. It is divine. – John 3:1-7
- B. It is gracious.
- C. It is through God’s Word. – John 3:6; 1 Peter 1:23; Hebrew 4:12
- D. It is the finest birth possible.

V. Practical Ways to Handle Temptation!!

- A. Counteract temptation – Do not tolerate it. – Romans 6:13
- B. Use the right resistance. – Proverbs 4:25; Job 31:1
- C. Remind yourself that the final pain will soon erase the temporary pleasure. – Hebrews 11:24, 25
- D. Control your thought life through the memorized Word – Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 119:9, 11; Galatians 6:7; Ephesians 6:11, 12

Apply immediately how God says to resist and HANDLE TEMPTATION.
You WILL BE TEMPTED—BUT YOU CAN HANDLE IT!!

Pastor Gerald L. Durley