

The Right Way To Face Temptation

Jas. 1:1-17

Intro: All of us are confronted every day with the challenge of temptation. Our faith is tested in a lot of ways and at times we may feel that our faith will break under the load. Maybe we could wish that God would just make Satan leave us alone, but that's not his will. Instead he wants to learn how to respond to temptation when it comes. In James 1 we read an excellent paragraph on how to meet the challenge of temptation.

Rejoice for the spiritual growth it can produce.

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing (Jas. 1:2-4)

James uses a tense in Greek that means to do something once and for all! Manifold="varigated" temptations=tests that may allure us to wrong. Proving=to test to determine its genuiness as with gold; patience=abiding under; perfect=telion, complete work; that you may be perfect=having reached the goal and entire=having all the parts, whole

Pray to God for wisdom to handle it.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (Jas. 1:5-8)

Temptation often presents us with real dilemmas and questions. What should I do? How can I handle this? And we can seek to rely upon our own answers or we can pray to God for answers.

Wisdom is insight into the practical application of truth.

Let him keep asking. God responds by giving, generously and without reproach. In faith=with trust; without doubting=self division; the doubting man is like the surf tossed back and forth by the wind; double-minded=dipsuchos, double souled; and unstable=unsteady, fickle, staggering

Keep your emphasis on the spiritual rather than the physical.

But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position; and let the rich man glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away. (Jas. 1:9-11)

Robertson points out that the gospel is the great "leveler of men".

Regardless of you earthly circumstances you can rejoice in you spiritual

condition. Thus, the rich exalt in their humiliation; the poor in their exaltation; both stand on the same ground with God.

Keep your eyes on the prize.

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (Jas. 1:12)

The blessing is for those who endure. Keep your eyes on the prize—the crown of life. “I want to win”.

Don't blame God!

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures. (Jas. 1:13-18)

The connection is interesting here. It is easy to blame God as the source of our misfortunes. Yes, he is sovereign Lord is creation and things in it must come under his permissive will. Yet, God is not the immediate and direct author of all our troubles. And He certainly does not hope to lure us into sin.

Instead James says, He is the source of “every good and perfect gift” and it was he who caused us to born again so as to live a new life.

Conclusion: God has made us a promise! No temptation is too great with God's help. Using this principles will help us overcome temptation in our lives.