

How To Deal With Temptations – James 1:12-18

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Introduction

1. One of the greatest challenges to living the Christian life is dealing with temptations. In James 1:12-18 we find some help in the form of...

- a. A Promise – to those who endure temptations
- b. A Caution – to not blame our Lord for those temptations
- c. An Understanding – of how sin develops

I. The Promise – James 1:12

- a. The Man Who Endures Temptations Will Be “Blessed”
- b. For After He Has Been “Proved” He Will Receive “The Crown Of Life”

II. The Caution – James 1:13, 16-18

- a. Let No One Say They Are Tempted By God! (v13)
- b. So Don't Be Deceived Into Such Thinking (v16-18)

III. The Understanding – James 1:14-15

- a. How Sin Develops
 - i. The first stage is temptation (v14) which involves LUST and ENTICEMENT
 1. **Temptation = Desire + Opportunity**
 - ii. The second stage is sin itself (v15) which is where you ACT upon the temptation
 1. **Sin = Desire + Opportunity + Action**
 - iii. The final stage is the consequence of unforgiven sin: death (v15) which is the wages of sin (Romans 6:23) and it involves punishment (Revelation 21:8)
 1. **Desire + Opportunity + Action + No Forgiveness = Punishment!**
- b. How To Overcome Sin
 - i. Change Our Desires – Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:24
 1. How? Notice the word of God is key – Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:3-10; Psalm 116:12-14; 119:104. The More we study the less we desire to sin.
 - ii. Limit Our Opportunities - by asking for God's help Matthew 6:13; 26:41
 1. By avoiding situations that bring wrong desires – Psalm 101:3-4, 6-7; Job 31:1; 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - iii. Exercise Self-Control – Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 3:16; Romans 8:12-13; Philippians 4:13; 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - iv. Obtain Forgiveness – 1 John 2:1-2; Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9

Conclusion

1. We can overcome sin by stopping its development at any one of the four stages leading to the final punishment! God is with us to help us overcome will we let Him? – 2 Thessalonians 3:3