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Dealing With Temptations

JAMES 1:2-4

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Lessons From The Book Of James

- ▶ Date: AD 45 and AD 62
 - ▶ Likely the earlier part of this period.
- ▶ Author:
 - ▶ Appears to be James, the half-brother of Jesus. (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3).
 - ▶ Did not believe in Jesus during His ministry. (John 7:5)
 - ▶ After the resurrection and appearance of Jesus to him, James became a disciple. (1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 1:14)
 - ▶ Leader in the Jerusalem church. (Galatians 2:9; Acts 15:13ff) When Paul visited Jerusalem, he brought greetings to James. (Acts 21:18)

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Lessons From The Book Of James

- ▶ Recipients: Dispersed Jewish Christians.
 - ▶ Believers of Jewish origin.
 - ▶ "... to the twelve tribes which are of the Dispersion ..." James 1:1
 - ▶ Addressed as "brethren" 15 times (ASV).
 - ▶ Possibly those driven out of Jerusalem following the death of Stephen. Acts 8:1,4; Acts 11:19-20

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Lessons From The Book Of James

- ▶ Recipients:
 - ▶ Christians (from Jewish background), whose faith in Jesus Christ would be tested by the Gentile society in which they lived.
 - ▶ Christians (from Jewish background), whose faith in Jesus Christ would be tested by their own countrymen.
 - ▶ Most were poor and being oppressed by the rich. (James 2:6-7)
 - ▶ Temptation:
 - ▶ Desire to avoid pain.
 - ▶ Desire to enjoy pleasure.

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Summary Of The Book

- ▶ **Chapter 1: Trials build mature character. James 1:2-4**
 - ▶ All are subject to temptation, these are not from God, but result from man's evil desires and eventually leads to spiritual death (1:13-17).
 - ▶ **A man must be a hearer and a doer** – if he is to be blessed (1:25).
 - ▶ Practical application – caring for the fatherless and destitute widows (1:27).

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Temptations

- All are subject to temptations. Luke 17:1**
"It is impossible but that occasions of stumbling should come; but woe unto him, through whom they come!"
- ▶ No person is immune. 2 Timothy 3:12
 - ▶ Manifold temptations. 1 Peter 1:6
 - ▶ Not the same for all. "by craftiness in deceitful scheming" (NASV) (Ephesians 4:14; 6:11)
 - ▶ Numerous devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
 - ▶ Your case is not unique. cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - ▶ Rich or poor. James 1:9-11
 - ▶ Young or old. Titus 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:22

Temptations

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Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptation is not sin. Proverbs 1:10, "My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not."
- ▶ Sin is committed when desire controls. cf. James 1:13-15
- ▶ "Lust" (*epithumia*) "desire, craving, longing."
 - ▶ Whether good or bad determined by context.
 - ▶ Good – Jesus, Luke 22:15; Paul, Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:17
 - ▶ Bad – Cain, Genesis 4:7; David, 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Temptations

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Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted. Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1-11
 - ▶ Weary. John 4:6
 - ▶ Thirsty. John 4:7; 19:28
 - ▶ Hungry. Matthew 4:2
 - ▶ Because He was tempted, He is able to help us. Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:16

Temptations

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Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptations are not punishment. cf. Hebrews 12:7-11
- ▶ Faith is proved or tested. 1 Peter 1:6; 4:12
- ▶ Success results in patience ... Hope. James 1:3, 12; Romans 5:3-4
- ▶ James 1:4 – May be "perfect" (*teleion*) "properly, brought to its end, finished; lacking nothing necessary to completeness; perfect." (Thayer)
- ▶ No temptation greater than we can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Help With Temptation

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God's word rightly applied. 2 Timothy 2:15;

- Jeremiah 10:23
- ▶ Psalms 119:9, "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed (thereto) according to thy word."
- ▶ Psalms 119:11, "Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."
- ▶ Psalms 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path."
- ▶ Proverbs 4:5, "Get wisdom, get understanding; Forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth."
- ▶ Matthew 4:1-11 – Jesus used the Scriptures.

Help With Temptation

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"Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth." Ecclesiastes 12:1

- ▶ Joseph. Genesis 39
- ▶ David. 1 Samuel 17
- ▶ Daniel. Daniel 1
- ▶ Jesus was 12 when He said, "I must be about my father's business." Luke 2:42-49; cf. Luke 2:52
- ▶ NO TIME FOR WILD OATS. Galatians 6:7-8

Help With Temptation

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"Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23

- ▶ Attitudes control conduct. Luke 6:45; cf. Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21-23
 - ▶ No external police can do this!
- ▶ Focus on things above. Colossians 3:1-3; Romans 6:1-4; 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:1-3
 - ▶ Happiness is not dependant upon externals.
- ▶ "Sow a thought and reap the deed; Sow a deed and reap a habit; sow a habit and reap the consequences." (author unknown)

Help With Temptation

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Worship God regularly in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

- ▶ *"For **a day** in thy courts is better than **a thousand**. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."* (Psalms 84:10)
 - ▶ Emphasis not on duration, but intensity of joy.
 - ▶ The sincerity of your worship makes a difference. John 4:24; Psalms 122:1
 - ▶ Satisfaction to the soul. cf. Hebrews 10:24-25

Help With Temptation

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Watch the company you keep.Proverbs 1:10, *"My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not."*

- Be careful of peer pressure. cf. Psalms 1:1; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:33
- ▶ Proverbs 13:20, *"He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed."* NKJV (cf. Proverbs 1:7)

Help With Temptation

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- ▶ **"Watch and pray,** *that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* Matthew 26:41

- ▶ Possible to be overtaken in sin (Galatians 6:1), but NOT WITHOUT YOUR CHOICE. Matthew 6:13; cf. Romans 13:13-14 ; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13

- ▶ Limit your opportunities.
- ▶ Watch and resist. 1 Peter 5:8; cf. James 4:7

Help With Temptation

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Ask the right questions.

- ▶ Does the Bible prohibit this activity? Galatians 5:19ff
- ▶ Would I want to be doing this when the Lord comes? 2 Peter 3:10
- ▶ Will this destroy my ability to think soberly? Romans 12:3; Titus 2:2ff
- ▶ Will this cause others to stumble? Matthew 18:6-7; 1 Corinthians 8
- ▶ Have my parents forbidden it? Proverbs 15:5
- ▶ Does my conscience already question it? cf. Romans 14:23

Dealing With Temptations

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James 1:12, *"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which (the Lord) promised to them that love him."*

James 4:7, *"Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*