

James - A Faith That Walks - Trials, Temptations, and the God We Trust (James 1:13-16)

Intro:

- Trials reveal faith (James 1:5-12; Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Peter 1:6-7)
- Temptation reveals our obedience
- God tests faith, but never tempts toward sin (James 1:13)
- Trials come from the outside, temptation comes from inside (Mark 7:21-23; Romans 7)

1. The Lie We Are Tempted to Believe - "It's Not My Fault" (James 1:13)

- Our instinct is to deflect responsibility (Genesis 3:12-13; Proverbs 19:3)
- God's character clarified:
 - God cannot be tempted by evil (Habakkuk 1:13, Numbers 23:1)
 - God does not tempt anyone (James 1:13)
 - God does not create temptation, He limits it (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- The battlefield is the heart/mind (Jeremiah 17:9)

2. The REAL source of temptation - A War within US (James 1:14-15)

A. Temptation comes from our own desire (James 1:14)

B. The Progression or Anatomy of Sin (James 1:15)

1. *Desire | Emotion*

- Desire itself is not sin (Hebrews 14:15)
- Unchecked desire becomes dangerous (Hebrews 11:25; Proverbs 14:25)

2. *Deception | Mind*

- Sin is justified and minimized (John 8:44, Proverbs 7)

3. *Design | Will*

- Lust has CONCEIVED (James 1:15)
- The WILL is engaged (Matthew 5:28; Joshua 24:15)
- Most sin is not impulsive, it is thought out and permitted

4. *Disobedience | Behavior*

- What has been conceived will come out
- Unchecked desire always produces action (Galatians 6:7)

3. Where the Battle Must be Fought

- You cannot and will not win the battle against sin at the behavior level
 - A. *Emotional Level* (Proverbs 4:23)
 - What you allow into your heart shapes your desire
 - B. *Mental Level* (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5)
 - Thoughts must be renewed and taken captive
 - C. *Walking in the Spirit* (Galatians 6:15)
 - Victory comes through dependence, not willpower (John 15)