

TRIUMPH OVER TEMPTATION

James 1:12-18

“What is temptation? Seduction to evil, solicitation to wrong. It stands distinguished from trials thus: Trial tests, seeks to discover the man’s moral qualities or character; but temptation persuades to evil, deludes, that it may ruin. God tries, satan tempts.” - J.D. Pentecost
Temptation - devil’s tool. Jesus warned. (John 10:10) The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Pursuit of God – (v.9-12) **A matter of direction**.

The “lowly brother” – beware of “envy” (self-pity).

(Proverbs 14:30) A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.

Warning the rich against a spirit of “pride.”

(Luke 12:20) But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

What we spend our money on says a lot about our “pursuits!”

Lowly brother - “glory” (rejoice) in his “exaltation!” Riches in Christ!

Rich “rejoice,” in “humiliation.” By humility they have received true eternal riches.

(Luke 12:15) And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

(1 Timothy 6:10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

“When he has been approved.” Temptation is a test.

To be approved – matter of integrity before God.

Endure – hypomeneo: remain; hold fast, abide in Christ.

Enduring is not “gritting” my teeth but resting “remaining” in Jesus!

Believing Jesus, who is our refuge, is greater than my ruin!

Crown, far more “valuable” than the fading flowers, (v.10), fading beauty and riches, of this world.

Passion for God – (v.13-15) **A matter of heart**.

Jesus has “disarmed” him, (Colossians 2:13-15)

If we have sinned, “own it!”

4 stages of sin:

1) draws (drags) us away. (v.14).

Enticed - *deleazo* – to bait.

(2 Timothy 2:22) Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- 2) Sin is conceived. (v.15a).
- 3) We give birth to lust. (v.15b).
- 4) Sin produces death. (v.15c).

(2 Timothy 3:4b) "...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."
Walk in the Spirit – by not grieving the Spirit.

(Ephesians 4:30-32) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Promises of God – (v.16-18) A matter of trust.

(Matthew 4:4) "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

(2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

(John 3:19-20) And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

God is the only constant source of “goodness” and “perfection.”

(Hebrews 13:8-9) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Deception - when “feelings” replace “faith.” (*Romans 1:17*). When “knowledge” replaces “love.” (*1 Corinthians 8:1*).

Paul warned.

(2 Timothy 4:3-4) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

CONCLUSION:

We can “triumph over,” rather than be “trampled under,” by temptation.

(1 Corinthians 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.