

# The Book of James

## Temptation

**James 1:13-15 (NIV)** “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup>but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

### How to Win over Temptation:

#### 1. Don't let temptation catch you by surprise.

**James 1:13<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “When tempted ...”

**1 Corinthians 10:13<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.”

#### 2. Refuse to play the blame game.

**James 1:13 (NIV)** “When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone ...”

#### 3. Identify what triggers temptation.

**James 1:14 (NIV)** “... each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.”

**Lamentations 3:40 (NIV)** “Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.”

**1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV)** “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!”

#### 4. Recognize that sin follows a predictable pattern.

**2 Corinthians 2:11<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “For we are not unaware of his [the Devil's] schemes.”

**James 1:14-15 (NIV)** “... each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

**James 1:14<sub>a</sub> (ESV)** “But each person is tempted when he is lured ...”

#### **Satan dangles the bait.**

**James 1:14<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “. . . but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire . . .”

#### **We swim around the hook.**

**James 1:14 (NIV)** “. . . but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire he is dragged away and enticed.”

#### **We take the bait.**

**James 1:15<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin”

#### **We suffer the consequences.**

**James 1:15<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “. . . and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

#### 5. Refocus your attention on the goodness of God.

**James 1:16-17 (NIV)** “Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

**Psalms 84:11 (NIV)** “... no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.”

**Psalms 34:8 (NIV)** “Taste and see that the LORD is good ...”

**Psalms 27:13 (NIV)** “I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”

## 6. Find verses that help you stand firm and use them.

**James 1:18 (NIV)** “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”