

Playlist: The Temptations

April 20 & 21, 2024

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

BIG IDEA: Listening to temptation draws us away from God.

James 1:12-14 | ¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

Temptation - The desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.

- **Temptation is not a SIN.**
- **NO ONE is above temptation.**
- **GOD doesn't tempt us.**

RESIST Temptation with healthy HABITS.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 | ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

- **READ and BELIEVE God's Word.**
- **Avoid tempting ENVIRONMENTS.**
- **Establish ACCOUNTABILITY.**
- **Guard against SELF-RELIANCE.**

**NEXT STEP: Set yourself up for success versus temptation.
Establish healthy guardrails in your life.**

Playlist: The Temptations

April 20 & 21, 2024

Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. Have you ever come way too close to a dangerous edge? What's the story?
2. How many friends do you have that you could call during a tempting time?

Quick Review:

1. This week we talked about temptation and some practical areas where we can avoid it. Which one of those areas do you think you do the best in? Which one needs work?
2. What did you learn about temptation that you did not know before?

Digging Deeper:

1. James 1:13-15.

James 1:13-15 | ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

This verse describes the process of temptation and sin. It even uses words like death! We often classify sin in different ways. It's clear that ANY sin leads us away from God. What are some of the not-so-obvious ways that we succumb to temptation?

What about the obvious ones? How can we do a better job of understanding their impact on our lives?

2. Read Romans 7:21-25.

Romans 7:21-25 | ²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Paul relays the difficulty of the battle within us, even among the most righteous. He notes that even though we strive to be good, there is always a battle inside. The hope we have is that Jesus has delivered us!

What are some ways that God has delivered you? In what areas are you still looking for freedom?

Put it into Practice:

Understand where temptation is coming from and start to set up your life in a way that fights against it. Realize that God is working on your behalf, but we must walk with Him.