

WOMEN IN THE WORD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

THE BOOK OF JAMES – Growing Up In Christ

Scripture Reference Notes – September 26, 2023

Lesson Two

Temptation – James 1:13-18

The Life Application Study Bible breaks the book of James down by chapter.

Chapter Summary:

Chapter 1: Confident stand – What a Christian has.

Chapter 2: Compassionate service – What a Christian does.

Chapter 3: Careful speech – What a Christian says.

Chapter 4: Contrite submission – What a Christian feels.

Chapter 5: Concerning sharing – What a Christian gives.

Lesson 2 – James 1:13-18

Last week James taught about trials from the outside, trials that are uninvited guests, beyond our control, by responding with JOY (not happiness but God's joy) and how to endure by asking God for wisdom in the trial without doubt with proven genuine faith at the end of the trial. This week we will talk about trials from the inside and our attitude towards God in those times! James calls these trials: temptations.

Hodges: “James moves from “its broader meaning of ‘trial’ or ‘testing’ (vv. 1-12) to its more narrow meaning of ‘temptation’ or ‘solicitation to evil,’” (in 13-18), temptations to sin. It may be safely said that in every ‘trial’ (broad sense) which we have, there is also a ‘temptation’ to evil (narrow sense).”

James 1:13 – When tempted no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;”

James says, “when tempted, not if tempted.” Because the Jewish believers struggled with temptation, James wanted his readers to know they **will** be tempted toward evil in trials as well as to understand the nature and progression of temptation and that it is NOT from God.

Temptation as defined by Webster's: the desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise. a thing or course of action that attracts or tempts someone.

Mark 7:20-23 – He went on, (this is Jesus speaking regarding clean and unclean), what comes out of a man is what makes him unclean. For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean.

Evil: Morally bad or wrong; wicked.

Causing ruin, injury, or pain; harmful.

Characterized by or indicating future misfortune; ominous.

Tozer: "When I say that God is good, that God has a kind heart, I mean that He has a heart infinitely kind and there is no boundary to it. When I say that God is good-natured, good and kindly of nature, I mean that He is infinitely so. God is not only infinitely good, He is perfectly good. God is never partway anything! When I say that God is kindhearted, I mean that He is perfectly so."

Psalm 119:68 – You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.

Psalm 34:8 – Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

Psalm 139:17 – How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them.

God is holy!

Holy: Webster's definition: exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness: divine.

Psalm 77:13 – Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?

Psalm 99:9 – Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

Isaiah 6:3 – And they were calling to one another: Holy, Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.

1 Peter 1:15-16 – But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy.

Revelation 4:8 – Each of the four living creature had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stopped saying: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

Our God is holy and there is none other! He does no evil and does not tempt anyone! Satan tempts though. Remember Job from last week?

Job 1:11 – But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.

Job 2:5 – But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.

Even Job’s wife wanted him to curse God. Another temptation to sin.

Job 2:9 – His wife said to him, ‘Are you still holding onto your integrity? Curse God and die!’ but God knew Job’s heart.

Job 1:1b – This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

Job 1:20b-22 – Then he fell to the ground in worship and said, Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, may the name of the Lord be praised. In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

God is holy and good. **BUT....**

James 1:14-15 – but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. This is the progression/path of temptation.

Wiersbe – “Temptation always carries with it some bait that appeals to our natural desires.”

Proverbs 5:3-6 – For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

Proverbs 7:21-27 – With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her and like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life. Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are the mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave leading to the chambers of death.

Deuteronomy 11:16 – Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

Proverbs 11:6 – The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

Romans 6:12 – Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Colossians 3:5 – Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

1 Peter 1:14 – As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

Proverbs 19:3 – A man’s own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord.

Hodges – “All Satan’s efforts to lead people to evil, and all of the world’s seductions, would have no effect on a person at all unless he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. In the final analysis, James is right. There is no temptation for us except when we respond to some seduction in an inward way and find the evil in some way desirable.”

Don – “Temptation – lust – spiritual intercourse – conception – birth – matures – death, gives birth to death.”

Proverbs 10:27 – The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

Proverbs 11:19 – The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death.

Proverbs 12:28 – In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.

Examples from David and Eve.

Proverbs 13:14 – The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

Proverbs 19:16 – He who obeys instruction guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of his ways will die.

Proverbs 19:18 – Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

James 1:16-17 “Don’t be deceived,

Deceived: Bible Hub Bible dictionary – “An attempt to deceive or lead into error; a falsehood; any declaration, artifice, or practice, which misleads another, or causes him to believe what is false; a contrivance to entrap; deception; a wily device; fraud. 2. (n.) Any trick, collusion, contrivance, false representation, or underhand practice, used to defraud another.”

Every good and perfect gift is from above,

Swindoll: “anything good and perfect comes from the One who is Himself good and perfect and dispels the darkness of deception.” (Focus on God. God has good things for you; gifts.)

Wiersbe: “God’s gifts are always better than Satan’s bargains. Satan never gives any gifts because you end up paying for them dearly.”

Proverbs 1:10 – My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

Proverbs 4:14 – Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.

Psalms 139:23-24 – Search me, O God, and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 6:13-14 – Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the part of your body as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 13:14 – Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Hebrews 3:13 – But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

“coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

The Father of Heavenly lights: God dispels the darkness. He knows no darkness.

Psalms 27:1 – The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

Malachi 3:6 – The light of His truth and the light of His holiness remain constant.

1 John 1:5 – This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Ephesians 5:13-14 – But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible.

John 8:12 – When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Psalms 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Blue Letter Bible:

Shifting shadows: The phrase rendered "**shadow** of turning" (shifting shadow) would properly refer to the different shade or **shadow** cast by the sun from an object, in its various revolutions, in rising and setting, and in its changes at the different seasons of the

year. God, on the other hand, is as if the sun stood in the meridian at noon-day, and never cast any **shadow**.

God Malachi 3:6a – I the Lord do not change.

Psalm 102:27 – But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

Revelation 1:8 – I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

does not change like shifting shadows:

Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Proverbs 3:34 – He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

John 1:14 – The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Romans 5:20-21 – The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

James 1:18 – He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

John 1:12-13 – Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children not born of natural descent, not of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 15:16a – You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

1 Peter 1:23 – For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Romans 10:9 – That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Hebrews 11:6 – And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

2 Corinthians 4:6 – For God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Matthew 16:17 - Jesus replied, Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

James says: “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth.”

Ephesians 3:12 – In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Ephesians 1:4-6 – For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Romans 12:2 – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Titus 3:5-7 – But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

1 Peter 1:3 – Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you.

Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

New birth through the word of truth: the gospel, the good news of salvation.

Ephesians 1:13 – And you also were included in Christ, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:5 – The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 – We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

Romans 10:17 – Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

That we may be a kind of **first fruits of all he created**: “first brought forth; first of the harvest.”

Wiersbe – “The Old Testament Jews brought the first fruits to the Lord as the expression of their devotion and obedience.”

Deuteronomy 26:8-10 – So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, O Lord, have given me. Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him.

Proverbs 3:9 – “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.

Exodus 23:16 – Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field.

Exodus 23:19 – Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.

Romans 8:22-23 – We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 – For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Paul says in **Philippians 4:8** – Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.

Next week: Lesson 3 Just Do It! (James 1:19-27)