



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Living Proof in the Face of Temptation

Passage: James 1:13-18

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: There isn't a day that goes by when we aren't tempted in some way. Temptation takes many forms. We're tempted to lie. Tempted to take what isn't ours. Tempted to gossip, to hold a grudge, to overeat, to indulge in lust, to manipulate others, or to withhold from God what rightly belongs to Him. But here's the deeper issue: we often don't treat temptation as something to resist—we treat it as something to rationalize. God uses trials to bring out the best in us; Satan uses temptation to bring out the worst. In our text, James gives us three warnings to help us handle temptation:

I. Don't Be Surprised by It (Verse 13)

Temptation, just like trials, is not optional—it is inevitable.

A. Temptation is Universal

The moment we were born into this world, we entered a battlefield, and temptation has been part of the conflict ever since.

B. Temptation is Inevitable

Temptation is not something you outgrow. We will always deal with temptation until we see Jesus.

C. Temptation is Personal



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Each person is vulnerable in different ways. That is why James says we are tempted when we are drawn away by our own lust. Temptation comes tailor-made for our weaknesses.

If you go through life shocked every time temptation comes, you will never be prepared to stand against it.

II. Don't Be Confused by It (Verses 13-15)

Temptation always looks like a gift and promises pleasure, but inside, it hides death.

Desire leads to deception, deception leads to disobedience, and disobedience leads to death.

Before you step into temptation, ask yourself, "Where will this take me?" If you are honest, you will come to one conclusion: it is not worth it.

III. Don't Be Deceived by It (Verses 16-18)

Temptation is a lie. Do not fall for it. Satan offers counterfeits—it looks good but destroys.

Temptation offers what appears good but leads to ruin. God offers what is truly good and leads to life. Satan offers bait that hides a hook; God offers gifts that satisfy forever.

If God gave us life itself, why would we chase Satan's counterfeits?

Victory over temptation comes not merely from willpower but from worship — seeing that God is better.

Conclusion:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
(1 Corinthians 10:13)



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God always provides a way out. And here is where living proof comes in: how you handle temptation is proof of whether your faith is real. Anyone can claim faith while sitting in a pew on Sunday morning. But when temptation comes on Monday, your response reveals whether you are genuine or counterfeit. Where has temptation been winning in your life? Tonight is the time to deal with it. Don't play games with sin. Don't toy with the bait while ignoring the hook. Run to Jesus. Cry out for grace. He will forgive, and He will empower. Remember: the struggle with temptation is not a sign of weakness—it is proof that the Holy Spirit lives in you. The lost man sins without remorse. But the saved man feels the tension, the pull, the inner war. That battle is proof that the Holy Spirit is at work.



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