

#ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

REFLECTION- Adulting in the face of temptation

Passage: James 1:13-18

10/17/2025

James 1:13-18 | Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

- James now turns to the other side of trials; where temptation comes from (vs 13-14)
 - God tests His people to strengthen their character (ex: Abraham- Gen 22; Israel- Exodus 16:4; Hezekiah- 2 Chron 32:31). God never tempts people.
 - **Temptation itself is not sin, sin occurs when we mishandle temptation.**
- James reveals the spiral of sin/the course of following temptation (vs 14-15):
 - **Desire** (lust) → **Deception** (lured away/enticed) → **Disobedience** (sin) → **Death**
 - We are tempted by our own sinful desires; we are lured in like a hunter enticing his prey. We try to convince ourselves we can dabble in sin and not allow it to go too far. Then we try to rationalize or blame others, but the consequences soon follow. And where there is sin, there is always death (Rom 6:23).
 - These 4 stages are perfectly depicted in the first sin in Gen 3:1-24:
 - Desire - Eve wanted knowledge and food
 - Deception- Eve forgot the Lord's warning and was deceived in her mind
 - Disobedience- Eve took the fruit and ate it, then shared with Adam
 - Death- experienced immediate separation from God and eventual physical death
- Immediately following the warning about trials and temptations comes the command to not be deceived & focus on our good God (vs 16-18)
 - We are deceived by the world, the enemy, and our sinful nature
 - We are tempted to believe that God withholds good gifts from us and there is some satisfaction in the sin we are told not to partake in.
 - Consider God's goodness (vs 17)- God gave us the most perfect gift at the cross through the sacrifice of Jesus, and it is in Christ that we can find every spiritual blessing (Eph 1:3). God gives only good gifts, the way He gives is good, He gives constantly, and He does not change.
 - Consider new birth and life in Jesus (vs 18)- we come to this place by receiving the gospel message which generates new birth in the heart of a sinner. We now have a higher birth which means a higher life so we should not fall to Satan's bait, now focused on how we should yield to our new nature in Christ.

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 1:13-18 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options- you can easily compare in the Bible app or on biblegateway.com). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. What is the difference between a trial and temptation?
3. In what ways are you tempted to blame others or God for your sin?
4. Read Proverbs 4:14-15 & Matthew 5:27-30. Sins severity is highlighted in these passages. How does Jesus say we should deal with sin in our life? Is there anything in your life that you need to remove? (Pray for guidance this week if you aren't sure).
5. Read Matthew 4:1-11 & Hebrews 4:15. In what ways do we see Jesus tempted by Satan? How did Jesus combat the temptation?
6. Read Mark 14:38, Matthew 6:13, & 1 Corinthians 10:13. How can prayer help combat temptation?
7. Read 2 Peter 1:2-3 & Colossians 3:1-17. How can fixing your mind on Christ help combat temptation?