



How to Overcome Temptation

James 1:13-27

James 1:13-15, *And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.*

I. God warns us to avoid the slippery slope of sin. **James 1:13-15**

James 1:14, *Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.*

Proverbs 23:30-32, *It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks. ³¹ Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down. ² For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake; it stings like a viper.*

Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Ezekiel 18:23, *Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.*

II. God wants us to acknowledge His goodness. **James 1:16-18**

James 1:16-18, *So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all His creatures. **MSG Paraphrase***

A. God is Good, v. 17

B. God is a Giver of Good Things, v. 17

C. God Never Changes,
... He never changes... v. 17c

Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. **NASB***

D. God Gives Us Eternal Life, v. 18a

James 1:19-20, *Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.*

III. God wants us to avoid anger. James 1:19-20; Proverbs 17:27

Proverbs 17:27, *Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth hot.*

James 1:20, *...So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives*

IV. God wants us to avoid worldliness. James 1:21

1 John 2:15-16, *Do not love this world nor the things it offers you. For when you love the world, you do not have the love of the father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the father, but these are from the world.*

James 1:21 *...and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.*

V. God wants us to accept and obey His Word. James 1:21; Hebrews 4:12

James 1:22-25, *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*

**Your walk talks and your talk talks but your walk talks louder than your talk talks.*

APPLY GOD'S TRUTH...

- 1. Are you certain of your salvation?**
- 2. Are you on your way down the slippery slope of sin?**
- 3. Have you allowed your desires to become twisted?**
- 4. Do you feel trapped by your disobedience?**

1 John 1:9, *If we admit our sins—make a clean break of them—He won't let us down; He'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.* **MSG**

John 8:35-36, *The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.* ³⁶*So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.* **NASB**

Are you ready to be set free from the nares of Satan? 1 John 1:9; John 8:35-36