



September 1-2, 2018
Life Hacks: Overcoming Temptation
Dr. Kurt Bjorklund

MESSAGE NOTES:

James 1:13-18

Why we yield to temptation:

1. We shift responsibility instead of take responsibility (v. 13-14)
2. We see the pleasures of sin instead of the consequences of sin (v. 14-15)
 - "own evil desire"
 - "enticed"
 - "dragged away"
 - "conceived...birth...death"
3. We approach God transactionally instead of relationally (v. 16-18)

STUDY GUIDE:

Reference:

Open in prayer and read James 1:13-18.

Review:

What was one thing from this weekend's message that challenged, confused, or stood out to you?

Reflect:

1. Many years ago there was a famous TV character who sought to shift responsibility for her misdeeds by proclaiming, "The Devil made me do it!" As you read this passage, who is actually responsible for our sinful actions and choices?

2. The Bible tells us that God does not tempt us with evil (James 1:13) but He does test us (James 1:2-4). What is the difference? How can you discern whether something is a temptation or a test?
3. One Bible version writes the first part of verse 15 this way - "Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin!" How can that graphic language help us understand the progression of a person committing a sin?
4. Consider verse 14, which depicts the image of bait on a fishing hook that appeals to the unsuspecting fish. Why is sin so enticing, like bait on a hook to a fish?
 - a. What does sin promise?
 - b. What does it actually deliver?
5. The idea of "firstfruits" (verse 18) comes from Deuteronomy 26:1-4. Why would James say that Christians are the "firstfruits of God's creatures?"
6. How does God's grace give us the capacity to resist temptation?
 - a. What strategies do you employ to avoid temptation?
 - b. What new strategy do you think you could begin implementing?

Respond/Reinforce:

Read Luke 4:1-13 this week and consider its application to this study. Thank God for Jesus' victory over temptation and sin on your behalf.