

James: Faith at Work

"Temptation, Testing, & Trials"

James 1:13-15

Sunday, May 31st, 2026

~ Vs. 13-15 of James' opening is indeed a very relevant passage of Scripture. It's a passage of Scripture for not just some people, instead it's for everyone. Everyone is currently or will experience temptations - and every Christian is being and will be tested!

~ God has a purpose in testing us. The Bible tells us it proves the genuineness of our faith - that we actually belong to Him!

1. Recognizing Temptation's _____ (v. 13)

~ Something I learned a long time ago: "The first step to fixing a problem is recognizing that there is a problem."

~ When it comes to trials and temptations, we are often guilty of misplaced blame. *A proper understanding of this biblical truth has the power to release believers from misplaced blame.*

➤ God cannot be tempted and he himself tempts no one ... The reason I believe this is true is because God cannot to be tempted to do something He **CAN NOT** do.

2. Realizing Desire's _____ (v. 14)

~ It needs to be noted that not all temptations and desires are evil.

~ There is a natural & logical progression here .. We need to understand this properly. It may help you out in your fight against evil desires.

"Temptation is like a knife, that may either cut the meat or the throat of a man; it may be his food or poison."

- John Owen

~ Ephesians 4:22 - *"to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires..."*

~ Colossians 3:5 - *"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."*

We All Need a Little Introspection...

~ To introspect means we look inward; we examine our own thoughts and feelings.

➤ Jesus & Temptation: Matthew 4:1-4

Jesus had not eaten for forty days & nights; this is not just a brief conversation here. Humanly, Jesus was experiencing a great need - hunger!

~ The reply Jesus gives the adversary is *powerful* - He uses the *Word of God* as His weapon!

3. _____ Sin's _____ (v. 15)

~ We are to resist the downward spiral by relying on Christ himself, who conquered temptation and death.

~ Hebrews 2:18 - *"For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."*

"Every temptation is escapable – small temptations and big temptations, daytime temptations and nighttime temptations, familiar temptations and foreign temptations, inward temptations and outward temptations. All along the hallway, God builds a doorway of escape – even right next to the doorway of sin. And though the door may become harder to enter the farther we travel down the hallway, it is always open for those who will turn the handle."

- Scott Hubbard