

James: Practical Daily Faith

The Presence and Purpose of Temptation

Part 1

James 1:1–4

Key Truth: Temptation is not merely something to endure—it is something God uses to strengthen our faith and deepen our dependence on Him.

I. Recognize Temptation's Presence

James 1:2

"Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."

What We Learn:

- James is writing to believers.
- Temptation is a normal part of the Christian life.
- "Divers temptations" means various kinds of trials and testings.
- Temptation is anything that draws us away from faith and obedience to God.

Remember:

- Jesus was tempted, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)
- Fear, worry, and doubt are common temptations.
- Faith pleases God. (Hebrews 11:6)
- Trust overcomes fear. (Psalm 56:3-4)

Note: Being aware of temptation's presence is the first step toward victory.

Notes:

II. Understand Temptation's Purpose

James 1:3

"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

What Temptation Produces:

- Temptation tests our faith.
- God uses trials to strengthen spiritual endurance.
- Faith grows when exercised.

God's Part:

- He limits temptation.
- He provides a way of escape.
- He remains faithful. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Our Part:

- Take the way of escape.
- Walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16)
- Bring every thought into obedience to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Key Principle:

Temptation is the weight God uses to strengthen our faith.

Notes:

III. Practice Patience Through Temptation

James 1:4

"But let patience have her perfect work..."

Patience Is:

- Waiting on the Lord while continuing to trust Him.
- Remaining faithful while God works.

Patience Produces:

- Experience
- Hope
- Spiritual maturity

- Peace with God (Romans 5:1-5)

Walking in the Spirit Produces:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Faith (Galatians 5:22-25)

Notes:

Completion Is Found in Christ

Spiritual Maturity Means:

- Continuing in God's Word (John 8:31-32)
- Living in the freedom Christ provides (John 8:36)
- Having everything needed to glorify God

"That ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." — James 1:4

Final Thought:

Temptation's presence should not discourage us. Its purpose is to develop faith, produce patience, and conform us more fully to Christ.

Takeaway

Presence → Purpose → Patience → Maturity

When temptation comes:

1. Recognize it.
2. Remember God's purpose.
3. Walk in the Spirit.
4. Wait on the Lord.

5. Grow in Christ.