

JAMES 1b TAMING TEMPTATION

THE CROWN OF LIFE

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; **CEV - God will bless you, if you don't give up when your faith is being tested.**

...for when he has been approved, (*Dies*) he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who **love Him**.

- There is a great way to tame temptation – To be SO in love with the Lord that you do not want to disappoint him! BE FAITHFUL – Get Crowned!

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; (*IE, This is not fair!*) for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

- **Chuck Smith** – “Lust can only be defeated by being starved to death. IF you feed it, it will demand more.”
 - It is WHY recovering addicts count their days, weeks, months, and years without slipping back into using. **Indulgence is insatiable!**

SIN BRINGS DEATH

15 Then, when desire (*AKA Lust*) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, (*Finished with you*) brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ***Sin Kills!***

- **ROMANS 6:23a** – The wages of sin is _____! *But...*

GOD IS GOOD

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- God WILL NOT send temptation your way! ONLY Satan will do that!

GOD IN US

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures. (**IE, God put His nature IN us!**)

AS PROMISED: WARREN WIERSBE offers these three considerations for taming temptation:

1. Consider God's **judgment** - V13-16
2. Consider God's **goodness** – V17.
3. Consider God's **Divine Nature Within** – V18

CONSIDER GOD'S JUDGMENT - V13-16

- This is a negative approach, but it is an important one. James said, "Look ahead and see where sin ends — death!" Do not blame God for temptation. He is too holy to be tempted, and He is too loving to tempt others. God does test us, as He did Abraham as in [Gen 22](#); but He does not and cannot tempt us. It is we who turn occasions of testing into temptations.
- **COURSON - Sin always brings forth death. Every time.** Sin will kill relationships. It will destroy happiness. It will ruin health. When you want to tell kids how serious sin is and what sin does, the best thing you can do is take them to the Cross of Calvary and say, "Look at this wonderful, perfect, loving Person and see Him on the Cross in agony and pain and bloody. It was when Jesus became sin for us that He died, for sin *always* brings death.
 - **How many of us slow down as we pass the Sheriff's station on Olson Road? Why?**
- Consider the judgment of the Lord when tempted.

CONSIDER GOD'S GOODNESS – V17

- One of the enemy's tricks is to convince us that our Father is holding out on us, that He does not really love us and care for us. When Satan approached Eve, he suggested that if God really loved her, He would permit her to eat of the forbidden tree. When Satan tempted Jesus, he raised the question of hunger. "If Your Father loves You, why are You hungry?"
- The goodness of God is a great barrier against yielding to temptation. Since God is good, we do not need any other person (including Satan) to meet our needs. It is better to be hungry *in* the will of God than full *outside* the will of God.
- One of the most challenging verses in scripture in the 23rd Psalm – "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want..." Want any more than HE provides.
- Consider the goodness of the Lord when tempted.

CONSIDER GOD'S DIVINE NATURE WITHIN – V18

- In the first barrier, God says, "Look ahead and beware of judgment." In the second barrier, He says, "Look around and see how good I have been to you." But with this third barrier, God says, "Look within and realize that you have been born from above and possess the divine nature."
 - **I John 3:9** - Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

BE A DOER!

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; **(God gave us 2 ears but only 1 mouth!)**

20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, **(Implanted BY GOD)** which is able to save your souls.

- CCSV, Can we all agree to put away the worldliness that is SO common among our culture?
 - Can we put away the slang and cussing and innuendos that our culture finds SO cute and humorous?
- **V21 NLT - So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.**

22 **But be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

- **Chuck Smith** says it is like when guys see their reflection in a storefront window and immediately suck in their tummy... But a block away, their tummy is relaxed again, sitting on their belt buckle...

25 **But** he who looks into the perfect law of liberty **(Bible)** and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- CCSV, staying in the Word REALLY will change you... Empower you... Protect you... Improve you... It will make you a "DOER!" *But...*

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, **(Pious, virtuous)** and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. **OUCH!**

27 Pure and undefiled religion (**Virtue**) before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Saint Frances of Assisi said to “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.”

May our lives be a testimony this week of a God who is alive and present to help and bless those who call out to Him.