



The Realities of Temptation
James 1:13-15

James 1:13-15 (NASB)

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

The Greek word used in James 1:2, 12 – πειρασμός (peirasmos)– is the noun form of the verb πειράζω (peirazō) (to test). Here it is translated as “test” or “trial.” The same word is used in 1:13, 14 – but in this passage, it is translated as “temptation” – either as a noun or as a verb.

Context determines how the same word is translated differently.

There is a difference between a test and a temptation!

A test is to determine the character of a person – to see how that person will respond... Think about Job in the O.T.

A temptation is an attempt to cause someone to sin... Think about Eve in the Garden of Eden!

What are the realities of Temptation?

1. God does not tempt anyone to sin, because He does not want anyone to sin!

James 1:13 (NASB)

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.”

1 Peter 1:14-16 (NASB)

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.’”

2. Temptation is universal!

James 1:13 (NASB)

“Let no one say when he is tempted...”

James 1:14 (NASB)

“But each one is tempted...”

I Corinthians 10:13a (NASB)

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man...

3. Temptation is not sin!

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB)

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.”

Jesus was tempted in all the same ways we are tempted, but He had no sin.

4. God wants to help us when we are tempted!

Hebrews 2:18 (NASB)

For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

I Corinthians 10:13b (NASB)

...and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

5. Sin has its consequences...

James 1:15 (NASB)

“Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

What can we do when faced with temptation?

1. Depend on the truth of God's Word to help you!

Jesus did! See Matthew 4:1-11

Three times Satan tempted Jesus. All three times Jesus quoted Scripture, "As it is written..."

2. Understand we are sinful and we will choose to sin.

1 John 1:8, 10 (HCSB)

"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."

3. When we choose to give in to temptation, confess your sin to your Father!

1 John 1:9 (HCSB)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."