

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Study Series: Wisdom for Living – Study of Epistle of James
Part 3: The Process of Temptation - James 1:12–18

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
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Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Passage	Topic
1/31/2024	James	Part 1: Overview of Epistle of James
2/7/2024	James 1:2–11	Part 2: Growing Through Trials
2/14/2024	James 1:12–18	Part 3: The Process of Temptation
2/21/2024	James 1:19–25	Part 4: Hearing and Doing the Word
2/28/2024	James 2:1–13	Part 5: The Sin of Partiality
3/6/2024	James 2:14–26	Part 6: Faith Without Works Is Dead
3/13/2024	James 3:1–18	Part 7: Taming the Tongue
3/20/2024	James 4:1– 12	Part 8: The Cause of Quarrels
3/27/2024	James 4:13– 5:6	Part 9: Sins of the Wealthy
4/3/2024	James 5:7– 12	Part 10: Patience in Suffering
4/10/2024	James 5:13– 20	Part 11: The Prayer of Faith
4/17/2024	James	Part 12: Summary and Conclusion

Introduction

We believers who live for God often wonder why we still have temptations. Does God tempt us? Where do temptations come from? Is it a sin to be tempted? Why do we get tempted? Is there any benefit to temptation? What are the downsides to temptation? How do we recognize temptation? How do we overcome? God in His love would have us not ignorant of the devil’s schemes and has made abundant provision for our ultimate victory over temptation and sin if we follow Him.

The Reward for Overcoming Trials and Temptations

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Question 1- What is this crown of life?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27.
2 Timothy 4:6-8
Daniel 12:2-3.
Hebrews 11:24-26.

A powerful key to overcoming trials and temptations is keeping our focus on Jesus and the reward He promises for being victorious. Hebrews 12:1-4. Revelation 2:7,11,17,26,27. Revelation 3:5,12,21.

The Origin of Temptations

James 1:13 *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.*

Question 2- Where do temptations come from? Who tempts?

Question 3- If God cannot be tempted by evil, how come we can be tempted by evil?

The Process of Temptation

James 1:14-15 *but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

The process starts with desire!

Question 3. When does a desire become evil?

Question 4. Does evil desire equal sin?

Examples- Eve. Genesis 3:1-7. Satan used a sincere motive/desire to tempt Eve- “you will be like God.” It was not wrong of Eve to want to be like God. To become more like God is humanity’s highest goal. It is what we are supposed to do. But Satan misled Eve concerning the right way to accomplish this goal. He told her that she could become more like God by defying God’s authority, by taking God’s place and deciding for herself what was best for her life. In effect, he told her to become her own god! But to become like God is not the same as trying to become God. Rather, it is to reflect His characteristics and to recognize His authority over your life. Like Eve, we often have a worthy goal but try to achieve it in the wrong way.

Cain- Genesis 4:6

Achan- Joshua 7:20

David- 2 Samuel 11:2

Solomon- 1 Kings 11:1

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Overcoming Temptations

James 1:16-17 ¹⁶ *Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

- Do not fall for the devil’s tricks. Do not be deceived! God is a good God! He is a rewarder!! He fulfills His promises!!! Psalm 84:10, Psalm 34:10, Ephesians 6:8, Joshua 23:14.
- Temptation is common; there is no new trick, expect it. But God will not allow you to be tempted or tested beyond what you can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Run/Flee from evil desires. 2 Timothy 2:22
- Watch and Pray. Matthew 26:41; 1 Corinthians 10:12
- Resist the devil; do not give him a foothold. James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9; Ephesians 4:27
- Consume the word of God. Psalm 119:9-11; Ephesians 6:17.
- The example of Jesus. Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4 :1-12.