

James 1:12-18

A close look on the inside

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me."

For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

These are essential truths for Christians

James describes more trials

They can be external and also internal

Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
Matthew 6:13



When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me."
For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

Temptation does not come from God
It is not in his nature.

Contrast the difference between trials vs. temptation

To build

1Peter 1:6-7 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me."
For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

Contrast the difference between trials vs. temptation

Or destroy

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail."



but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

We can't just blame the devil.

The terrible sequence is described for us:

Our Fallen nature - > fallen desires → child = sin

Sin grows and leads to the grandchild = death

The Bible gives us real life illustrations so we are warned and helped to avoid

1Corinthians 10:11-12 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Case study number 1



Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Case study number 1



Adam and Eve

What happened:-

2 perfect people

Satan's deception

Pride caused them to believe the lie denying God's love for them

They looked/saw- they took....

The consequences were catastrophic, bringing death to themselves and the world

Spiritual death was followed by physical death.

Case study number 1



Adam and Eve

What should they have done?

Believed God's word and warnings

Realised that something was very odd.

Said "No!"



Case study number 2



Achan at Jericho

Joshua 6:18-19 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

Joshua 7:1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.

Joshua 7:20-21 Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

Case study number 2



Achan at Jericho

Clear instructions – don't take anything – it's God's

He looked/saw and took

Covetousness

Nobody will know. It's only a little thing in the scheme of things

Results:

He involved his family in the cover up

The defeat of Israel – some troops were killed

Discovered – judgement and death for him and his family

Case study number 2



Achan at Jericho

What should he have done?

Obedied orders.

Once sin begins it grows

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:15



Case study number 3



King David

2 Samuel 11:1-5 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

Case study number 3



King David

2 Samuel 11:6-9 So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

2 Samuel 11:14-15 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

Case study number 3



King David

He was a very successful king. Blessed
He 'relaxed', he looked and saw and took
Lust – excuses mid-life crisis?

Result was that Bathsheba conceived
Her husband – Uriah was betrayed and 'murdered' by
David
David's long cover up – damaged his relationship with
God
Ruined his family
Shamed Israel

Case study number 3



King David

A dangerous temptation in our day too.

What should he have done ?

Looked away

Job 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.

and said 'no!'

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Case study number 4

The fool in Proverbs



Proverbs 7:7-23 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: "Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home. So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love! My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon."

Case study number 4 The fool in Proverbs



With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.



Case study number 4

The fool in Proverbs



Sinful Pleasure seeking

He put himself in the wrong place and at the wrong time

How near the edge can you go?

As far away as possible

Result – another ruined life.



Case study number 4

The fool in Proverbs

What should he have done?



2Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.



Case study number 5



The Champion – the Lord Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Case study number 5



The Champion – the Lord Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Case study number 5



The Champion – the Lord Jesus

Jesus had no sinful nature – but SATAN’S attempts were very real.

Disobey the Father’s plan and take a short cut mis-using his powers.

Lesson – it is not a sin to be tempted

The sin is in giving in to it.

Case study number 5



The Champion – the Lord Jesus

How did he win?

By a proper use and belief of God's word
(the Sword of the Spirit)

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil,
and he will flee from you.

How does this apply to us – trials and temptations will come
Satan knows your weaknesses and will try to play on them. cf.
The fiery darts –his insinuations – tempting you to accept them
as yours and believe them.

Christian you are responsible for your actions

Word of God is sword of the Spirit – know it and use.

Crucify the sinful nature – say no/die to ungodliness

Depend on God's power – cf. Ephesians 6 our active response

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

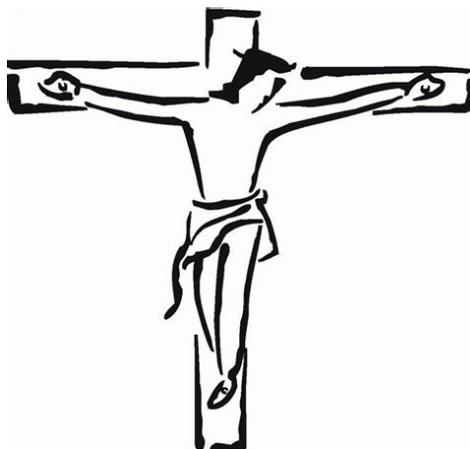
Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

If you fail, that's bad (no excuses), God's name will be brought into disrepute.

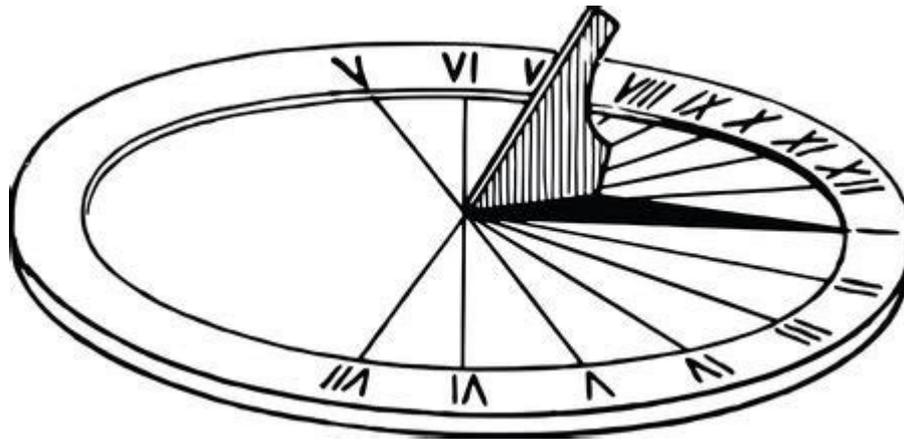
Repent!

1John 1:7-9 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is our sure and only hope.



Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.



God is good and blesses his children. He is constant and has good purposes for us as a special part of his creation.

Live to please Him by His gracious enabling