



Faith and Temptation

The Testing of Personal Faith

Main point: If we are not careful, *testing from outside can become temptations from the inside*. God's goodness is an effective barrier against yielding to temptation.

Expositional Outline:

A. The nature of human temptation (vv.13-16)

1. The source of human temptation (vv.13-14)

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. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

2. The consequences of yielding to temptation (v.15)

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

3. The warning against being deceived about temptation (v.16)

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

B. The activity of God in human affairs (vv.17-18)

1. The Giver of all good gifts (v.17)

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

2. The Author of the believer's regeneration (v.18)

In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Observations:

Digging deeper

Trials versus Temptations—What's the difference?

Read Genesis 22:1; Deuteronomy 4:34-40; 29:2-6; Psalm 95:6-11; 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Temptations versus sin—What makes temptation sin?

Read James 4:17; 1 John 3:4; Romans 14:23.

The four-step process of sin—*desire, deception, disobedience, and death*.

Read 1 John 1:8-10.

Would you share how this process has been seen in your own life?

Interpretative discussion questions:

- Can someone cause you to sin? Remember Matthew 18:6 and Romans 14:12-13, 21-22.
- Since trials and temptations are so prevalent, where can we find encouragement? Read Romans 15:1-5. There are two answers. Write them below:

Applicational questions:

- How do you protect your heart and mind from falling into the snare of temptation?
- Is your plan in line with God's Word? Prove it. Chapter and verse.

Memory verse for lesson 6:

- **James 1:13**—*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.*



Insights on Our Temptations:

Keith Brazier

Preservation training is not simply reactionary like defense-minded systems. It is more than self-defense; more akin to self-preservation. One works to develop awareness, an ability to discern red flags, and fluid yet certain responses that neutralize danger. Naturally, training becomes more intense when techniques involve disarming assailants. Typically, the *power* is perceived to be in the weapon, which is truthfully just an extension of the person. In and of themselves, weapons do not have any power—they are not dangerous. Generally, the one wielding the weapon believes that he is in control and tends to focus on that item. If the defender improperly focuses on that weapon, he will freeze or move in a manner that can cause himself great harm or cost him his life. Those who train seriously know that appropriate action has to be taken swiftly and with the intention of eradicating all potential threats. These techniques are affectionately referred to as: "defanging the snake."

Believers are called to holiness. Holiness calls for action, which means that one cannot just rest and think that he can solely endure a trial (*Rom.13:14; 1 Cor.10:12*). The right mindset is to be accompanied with the right steps. It is important to know yourself and your triggers. Pay attention to red flags and avoid harmful situations. If you find yourself in one, have an exit strategy. Seriously consider the outcome of your actions, and do not fool yourself by hedging bets or rationalizing risks (*Prov.19:3*). Follow the example of Christ and keep the Word on your lips (*Matt.4:7-11*). Today, ask yourself, "Are there snakes in my life that I need to defang?"

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