

Temptation

James 1:12-18

1. Intro

1. This is something that is before us every day. At times it doesn't affect us, at other times it is so strong that we cannot overcome it. What is a struggle to one person will not affect someone else. Every person is confronted with it.
2. This is the very thing that brought our original parents to their knees. (Gen 3:6)
 1. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, pride of life (I John 2:16)
3. We can grow through temptation and we can defeat temptation.

2. We Can Grow Through Temptation

1. Blessing through temptation? (12)
 1. Blessing= inner peace
 2. We do not receive a blessing because of the temptation; rather...
2. Temptation can become a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block
 1. It provides choice
 1. It can move us toward or away from a God oriented choice.
 2. It produces spiritual maturity
 1. The fruit of the spirit is: (Gal 5:22-23)
 1. Fruit takes time to ripen
 2. The fruit of the spirit is developed in our lives by the circumstances that come before us.
 1. It is developed by choosing the opposite of the temptation.
 2. Joy in sorrow, love by being around the unlovable; peace when things don't go as planned; patients when we are forced to wait.

3. Temptation Happens

1. Desire
 1. Satan identifies a desire in you
 1. Where do our problems stem from (Mark 7:20-23)
 2. Temptation starts in the mind
2. Doubt
 1. Satan tries to get you to doubt what God says about sin
 1. Is it really wrong? Isn't that for someone else?
 2. Eve – Gen 3:4
3. Deception
 1. Satan is the father of lies. (John 8:44)
 1. Half truths; the whole story not told. (Gen 3:5)
4. Disobedience
 1. You act on the thoughts in your mind. (v. 15)

4. Defeating temptation

1. Refocus your attention
 1. Understand that temptation is not of God (13)

2. Temptation is a work of the ruler of this fallen world.
 1. We are not to “resist temptation”, but...
 1. Resist the devil (James 4:7)
 2. We are to fight back (Eph 6:13-17)
 1. Helmet of salvation; first is salvation
 3. Temptation begins with a thought, refocus your thought
 1. Battle for sin is won and lost in the mind.
 1. Take every thought captive (II Cor 10:5)
 2. Repeating the thought sets you up for a fall
 4. Recognize patterns of temptation
 1. Certain situations make you vulnerable.
 2. Avoid those situations
2. Get support
 1. Get at least one person you can confide in.
 1. If you are stuck in repeating a certain thing, you will not get out on your own.
 2. We hide our faults because of pride. We are “in control”.
3. Realize your vulnerable
 1. Not a sin to be tempted, Jesus was.
 2. The heart is deceitful (Jer 17:9)
 3. Don't carelessly put yourself in tempting situations
 1. It is easier to stay out, than get out.
4. Use the Word of God
 1. Don't argue with the Devil, you will lose (He has had years of practice)
 2. Ask for God's help
 1. God wants you to ask (Psalm 50:15)
 2. He understands our weakness

5. Conclusion

1. Temptation is here to stay until Jesus comes back.
 1. We can learn from it.
2. It can be defeated; it just takes work.