

James 1:12-18

Understanding Temptation

Our previous lesson looked at facing trials; this lesson looks at facing temptations. We see in [verse 12](#) that God notices and blesses us as we display faith when we are tested. Let's see what this means concerning handling temptations.

- > Who is to be blamed when we choose to sin ([vv. 13-14](#))? No one can be blamed but ourselves. Sin begins with our own desires.
- > What do you think the phrase "when desire has conceived" in [verse 15](#) means? When a desire turns into a decision to act on that desire. The product of "desire" = a choice to act on the desire.
- > Breakdown the progression of sin as seen in [verses 14-15](#): Temptation → desire → decision → sin → death
- > What do [verses 16-18](#) say about our desire to honor God rather than satisfying the flesh? God gives us all we need, we are satisfied/blessed in Him = no reason we should want to sin.

Application

Understanding that there is no one to blame for our sin except ourselves, we must recognize that we must take full responsibility for our actions. Considering the progression we have seen that leads to sin, list three practical tips you would give someone to ensure victory in a tempting situation:

- Keep your desires in check – pursue righteousness.
- Make an intentional decision to get out of the situation.
- Stay close to the Lord so your desires will honor Him.

Sin does not just happen. Sin is a result of allowing the desires of our flesh to rule our lives. Though our hearts may be deceitful ([Jer. 17:9](#)), we can allow God to transform our desires ([Rom. 12:2](#)). Then we will see sin for what it is and, in turn, pursue a life that leads to righteousness ([Rom. 6:16-18](#))!