



Overcoming Temptation

February 27 & 28, 2010 • Mark Spurlock
James 1:12–18

God blesses those who patiently endure **testing and temptation**. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. *James 1:12 (NLT)*

KEY CONCEPT: _____ **come with** _____

When tempted...

1. _____

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. *James 1:13–14 (NIV)*

2. _____

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

3. _____

• Refocus on _____

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. *James 1:16* (See also: *1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 6:7; 1 John 1:8*)

• Refocus on _____

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. *James 1:17*

• Refocus on _____

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. *James 1:18*

Daily Meditations

Brief Bible readings based on this weekend's topic

Monday

Please read James 1:12–18. What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why?

How are temptations different from trials? How are they connected?

Thank God today for the honesty of the Bible. Thank Him for the fact that He is with you through your trials and temptations. Talk to God about your areas of struggle. Ask Him to give you the courage and determination to face those temptations with the truth you're learning in the Bible.

Tuesday

Please read James 1:13–14. What two reasons does James use in this passage to demonstrate that God is not the source of temptation?

In what way do you struggle with blaming God when you are tempted?

What is the ultimate source of temptation?

Thank God today that He is for you. Thank Him for His love. Pray that you'll be honest with yourself and with God about the source of your temptations. Ask God for wisdom in facing your temptations.

Wednesday

Please read James 1:15. How does this verse explain the seriousness of temptation?

How does it help you to understand the seriousness of temptation?

Write down a temptation you are struggling with right now. Take a moment and write down the "life cycle" of that temptation: What does the conception, birth, full-fledged sin and death of that temptation look like?

Thank God today for His grace and mercy. Spend some time in prayer talking honestly about the temptations you are struggling with right now. Pray for a clear sense that God is with you in your struggle and that He will provide you the strength and courage you need.

Thursday

Please read Galatians 6:7, James 1:16 & 1 John 1:8. What types of deception are you warned about in these verses?

How have you struggled with these types of deception? How does that impact your attitude and actions?

Pray today that you will have clear discernment to know the difference between deception and truth. Pray that you will grow in your faith and walk with God.

Friday

Please read James 1:17. Think about some past struggles with temptation. In what way did you see the goodness of God through that struggle?

Why do you think James connected the topics of temptation and God's goodness?

Write down ten good gifts has God given you:

Thank God today for all He has given you. Thank Him for His unchanging nature. Pray that as you face temptations of different kinds today you will remember the goodness of God and that you will be able to refocus on that instead of the temptation.

Saturday

Please read James 1:18. How does this verse describe your relationship with God?

How can focusing on God's grace change the way you deal with temptation?

Thank God today that He chose you. Thank Him for giving you a purpose. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray for the new Venue service we started a few weeks ago. Ask God to use all that we do for His glory and that we will be effective in reaching our community and growing our church spiritually!



Memory Verse

"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." *James 1:12 (NIV)*