



Sunday, October 24, 2021

**Sermon Series:
James: A Practical Faith that Works**

Title: “Taming Temptation”

Text: James 1:12-18

Pastor Perry Kallis

Big Idea: Trials are God’s tools designed to strengthen us in our faith, while Satan seeks to use temptations to lure us into sin.

Four Facts About Temptation:

- 1) Temptations are **inevitable**. (James 1:13)
- 2) Temptations are never God’s **enticements** to sin. (James 1:13 / Genesis 3:9-13 / 1 John 1:5)
- 3) Temptation is **personal**. (James 1:14 / 1 Peter 5:8-9)
- 4) Temptation has a **predictable** pattern. (James 1:14-15 / Genesis 39:11-12 / 2 Samuel 11:2-4)

Practical Ways to Handle Temptation:

- 1) Intentionally turn from temptation, don’t tolerate it.
- 2) Keep focus on God’s view of sin.

“Satan does not so much tempt us to feel **hatred** of God - but **forgetfulness** of God.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- 3) Feed your soul with scripture.
- 4) Live in light of God’s holiness.

Conclusion:

Nothing works better for resisting temptation than running to God’s love that saves us.

Study/Application Questions and Actions:

- 1) In what ways are *temptations* different than *trials* for believers? How are they alike? How should we pray when anticipating either trials or temptations?
- 2) How would you counter the old excuse for sinning that says, “*The Devil made me do it*”? Explain the pattern that James gives for understanding temptation and sin.
- 3) Which life-situations might make a believer most vulnerable to yielding to temptations? How could we pre-arm ourselves against those vulnerabilities?
- 4) What have you found to be the most effective ways to resist temptations in your own life? What Bible passages have been the sharpest “swords” of truth during those times?
- 5) How might believers nurture the motivation of love and delight in God, rather than mostly being motivated by “duty”?