

DEALING WITH TEMPTATION

JAMES 1:13-18; 4:7-8

❖ Opening Thoughts:

1. GOD IS THE **AUTHOR** OF GOOD; NOT EVIL.

James 1:13-18 (NLT) – ¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. ¹⁶ So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. ¹⁸ He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

2. OUR **ABILITY** TO DO GOOD IS LACKING.

Romans 3:11-12 (NLT) – ¹¹ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. ¹² All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

3. TO BE **SUCCESSFUL** IN DOING GOOD, WE NEED **GOD!**

James 4:7-8 (NLT) - ⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

❖ **How to increase your chance of resisting temptation:**

1. STAY IN COMMUNITY.

2 Samuel 11:1 (NLT) - In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

2. STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR MISSION.

2 Samuel 11:2 (NLT) - Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.

3. DON'T STOP TAKING INVENTORY.

2 Samuel 11:5-6 (NLT) - ⁵ Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, "I'm pregnant." ⁶ Then David sent word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David.

*Remember that sin grows in secrecy

4. STAY AWAY FROM THE SOURCE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

Genesis 39:10 (NLT) - She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.

5. SEEK A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Genesis 39:8-9 (NLT) - ⁸ But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. ⁹ No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.”

❖ How to increase your risk of losing to temptation:

1. STAY ANGRY!

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT) - ²⁶ And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

2. DON’T FORGIVE!

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NLT) - ¹⁰ When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ’s authority for your benefit, ¹¹ so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

3. LET YOUR **THOUGHTS** RUN WILD.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NLT) - We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

❖ Closing thought:

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT) - The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Sometimes it feels like more than you can handle; don't forget to lean on Christ and look for the way out!

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