

## Fighting Temptation

[Jas 1:13-15 ESV] 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

### I. Intro

- A. Reminder of Capital Campaign
- B. Lets get back to James, and a reminder of the challenge of Christian responsibility.
- C. This text should be super challenging for us today, this is a passage that should be received rather than explained away.
- D. Greek gymnastics could be an olympic sport in some places, lets not do that today.

### II. Text

#### A. Key words:

1. Tempt, temptation, tempted:
  - a) Definition: the desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.
  - b) Just the definition is something to recognize as a warning.
2. Desire:
  - a) Definition: a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen.
  - b) Strong feelings of want can lead you astray.
3. Sin:
  - a) Definition: missing the mark, things that do not bring glory to God
  - b) "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."

#### B. Verse 13

1. God is not tempting you to see if you will sin.
2. This goes against the very nature of God

#### C. Verse 14

1. Temptation comes from a lack of discipline regarding enticements
2. But we are all aware, our own desire is what we battle

#### D. Verse 15

1. The allowed and unchecked growth of desire brings conception that gives birth to sin
2. Sin produces death, it never produces life.

### III. Point

#### A. Target Temptation

1. Temptation comes from Self
2. Temptation Illustration:
  - a) We usually refer to being TEMPTED, and at the same time recognize we don't need it.
  - b) For instance: I'm tempted to eat that entire plate of cookies
    - (1) Not good for me
    - (2) Not healthy
  - c) Ive never heard: I'm tempted to go run 5 miles
    - (1) I'm a runner, and I love the feeling of FINISHING a long run or tough workout
    - (2) But to say I'm tempted...not the verbiage that works in context
    - (3) I'm tempted to sit on the couch, I'm disciplined to go run
  - d) Christian Discipline is the defense against temptation
3. Feeding SELF has a root in desiring something better than what you currently have, but does not meet the need, but rather results in death.
4. The desire is a better life, or a better time, but leads to death

5. [Rom 6:5-11 ESV] 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

#### B. Discipline Desire

1. Don't feed desire
2. Desire should not be confused or justified:
  - a) Our WORLD would say that if you desire something, that it has to be good
  - b) The WORD says to run from evil desires
  - c) There are those that would say their desires matter more than Biblical truth
  - d) Feeding DESIRE will leave you empty, and will do the same for your argument justifying acting on the desire.
    - (1) You can't blame God for your sin by saying it is your desire or the way your were made.
    - (2) That argument doesn't hold up...
3. Our sin nature certainly causes us to desire things that are not Godly, so we must practice Christian discipline
4. Flee the evil desires of youth
  - a) [2Ti 2:22-26 ESV] 22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
  - b) Run from immorality, AND self righteousness!
5. [1Co 10:13 ESV] 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

#### C. Healthy Growth

1. The Growth pattern of sin is always unhealthy
2. Just because something grows, does not mean it is good: a tumor can grow, but that is taking away from healthy growth
3. Sin is like a tumor that grows in a body that is healthy otherwise
  - a) Causes pain, because it doesn't belong
  - b) Steals resources
  - c) Needs to be removed
4. The growth we need as believers is to continually pursue that which is godly and purge ungodly things from our lives.
5. Growth is honoring our Lord through our continued dependance on Him, and our desire to continually serve His cause.
6. I am thankful for a growing church!
  - a) Is the growth healthy? Potentially
  - b) How can we measure? By obedient followers of Christ serving as they are equipped, sacrificing as they are called, and ministering as opportunities come.
  - c) Growing numbers are only exciting if there is also a growing service to Christ!

#### IV. Close