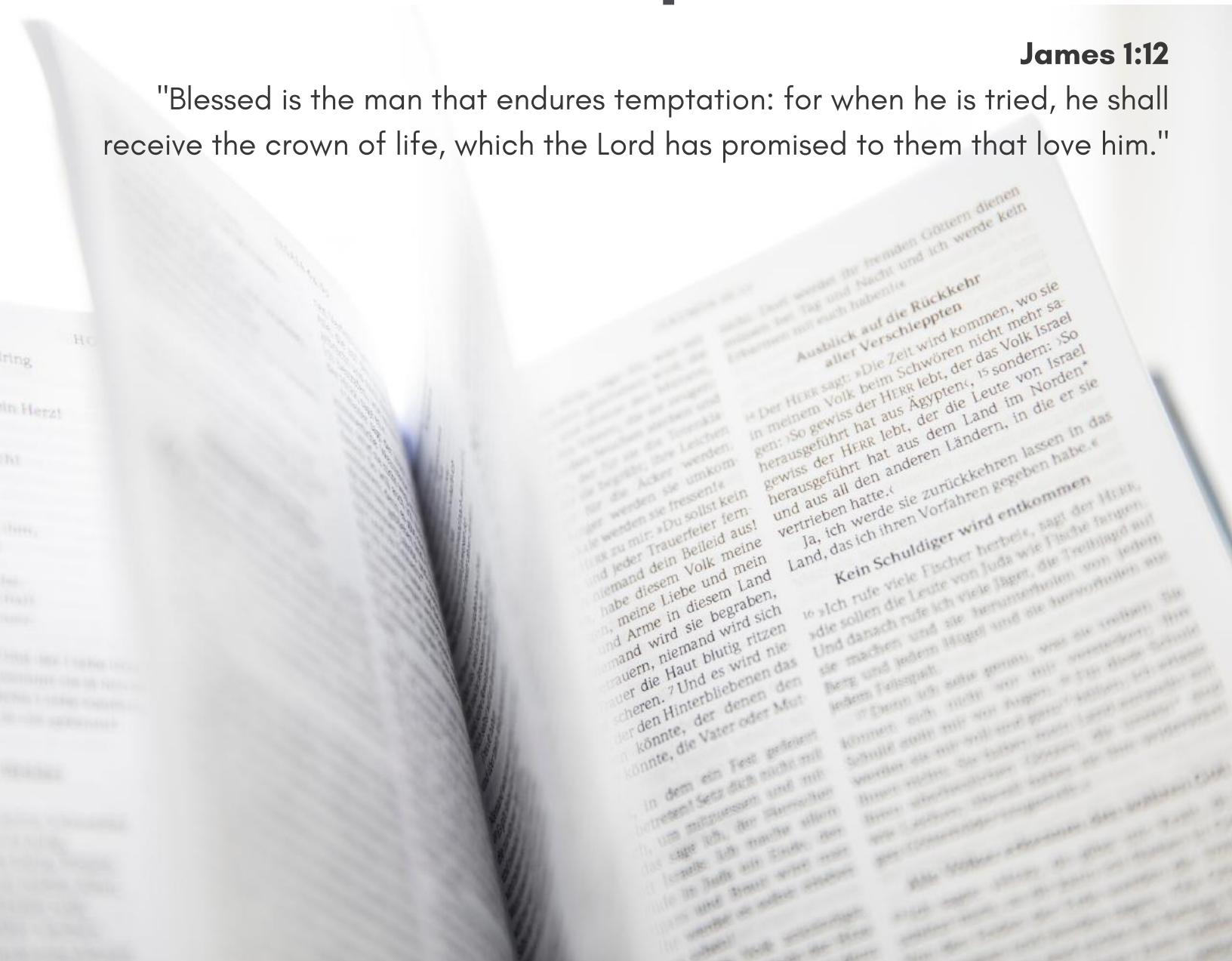


WINNING

The Temptation Battle

James 1:12

"Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him."



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Bible Study

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WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

The word temptation is derived the Greek word “**Peirasmos**” is more of a concept than it is a definition. In fact, this Greek work is translated with two completely opposite ideas.

WORD STUDY

Noun: πειρασμός (*peirasmos*), shows the same range of meaning as the verb *peirazō* referring either to a testing (Gal 4:14) or a temptation to do something wrong (Mt. 26:41; Lk. 4:13; 1 Tim. 6:9).

William D. Mounce, *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 715.

James 1:2 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

James 1:13-14 (NIV)

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

“Peirasmos” or a form of the word is used in James chapter 1 to describe both trials and temptation. James points out that trials and temptations have two difference sources and are designed with two different purposes and two different outcomes.

1. _____ come from _____.
2. _____ come from _____.
3. _____ to help us _____.
4. _____ cause us to _____.
5. God uses trials to direct our _____ in life.
6. Satan uses temptations to get us to take _____ that will destroy us.
7. God uses trials to _____ us _____ to Him.
8. Satan uses temptations to _____ us _____ from God.
9. God uses trials to help us _____ on His _____.
10. Satan uses temptations to _____ us the _____ of God.

**In every trial to there are two opportunities:
an opportunity to grow closer to God or the temptation to walk away from God**

HOW CAN I WIN THE TEMPTATION BATTLE?

1. We must be _____ about the _____ of temptation.

James 1:13 (NIV)

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

2. We must maintain the _____ in the temptation.

James 1:13 (NIV)

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

3. We must take _____ for the temptation.

James 1:14 (NIV)

but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

4. We must _____ to control our _____ and _____

James 1:14-16 (NIV)

14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV)

"In order that Satan might not outwit us, we are not unaware of his schemes."

**It's not your fault that you are tempted,
but it's your desires that create opportunity for temptation**

5. We must _____ the _____ of temptation.

a. _____

"Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires ... "

b. _____

"... he is dragged away and enticed ..."

c. _____

"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin"

d. _____

"and sin, when full grown gives birth to death."

6. We must learn to _____ on the _____.

James 1:17 (NIV)

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

Philippians 4:8

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights ..."

7. We have to _____ and _____.

James 1:14-16 (NIV)

14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV)

"In order that Satan might not outwit us, we are not unaware of his schemes."

James 1:18 (NIV)

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

1 Corinthians 10:13

"... God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it!"

WHAT DO I NEED TO FIGHT TEMPTATION?

1. Fellowship with other Christians.

2. Get into God's Word.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think people try to blame God for the temptations they face, as James's readers evidently were doing?
2. Why are we tempted to sin?
3. What is the chain of events that happen when we act on our temptations?
4. According to James in 1:13-15, who is the real culprit we are to blame for our sins?
5. When we give into the temptation to sin, how is our witness to the world impacted?
6. What have you found helpful in dealing with temptation?
7. How do you typically deal with your temptations?
8. Does "evil desire" always bring forth "death"? How does this happen? What examples could you give?
9. Why do you think James suddenly starts talking about "every good and perfect gift" in verse 17, after talking about evil desires? Is he just changing the subject (which he does sometimes), or is there a connection?
10. Why is it important that we NOT blame our temptation on God?

LIVE IT OUT

(Adapted from Francis Chan)

The book of James emphasizes the active side of our faith, so let's consider several ways we might put its teaching into practice.

Memorization: Learn 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 4:15-16; Matthew 26:41; Psalm 51:10; and/or another verse that applies to a particular temptation you struggle with.

Journaling: Write about your temptations and how you respond, but also about the joys you experience when you resist temptation. How does your relationship with God grow and soar when you trust Him?

Prayer: Think about others you know who are being tempted. Pray that God will strengthen them. But don't let these be proud prayers—"watch yourself, or you also may be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). Include The Lord's Prayer in this devotional time, with special focus on "Lead us not into temptation."

Accountability: Look for others you can share your struggles with. Can you arrange to meet with them every week or two, and let them know how you're doing? Fighting temptation can be a lonely business, but it doesn't have to be. When you know there's someone else holding you accountable, it might give you additional strength.

Joining or Volunteering: Our culture is full of temptations, and there are many whose lives have been ravaged by greed, lust, pride, or addictions of various sorts. There are also ministries that help those strugglers. Is there one you could connect with—as a volunteer, donor, or fellow struggler?