



Winning the Victory Over Temptation

James 1:13-18 NKJV

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I CAN RESIST EVERYTHING but temptation. - Oscar Wilde

***Sow a thought, you reap an act; Sow an act, you reap a habit;
Sow a habit, you reap a character; Sow a character, you reap a destiny. – Author unknown***

Remember Noah's drunkenness? Abraham's cowardice and lying before a heathen ruler? Moses' self-exaltation which made him strike the rock and kept him out of the Promised Land? Jacob's trickery? The Sons of Jacob who mistreated Joseph? Elijah's murmuring? David's adultery and murder? Jonah's rebellious spirit? Peter's denial of His Lord? John Mark's desertion? Paul and Barnabas' strife? Some of the noblest men of the Bible have not only experienced temptation but have yielded to its power. [adapted from Charles Ryrie, as quoted by David Jeremiah, What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do, 42]

I. YOU HAVE NO ESCAPE – for you WILL be tempted (v. 13)

- A. Jesus was tempted (Matt. 4:1-11) (Hebrews 4:15)
- B. 1 Corinthians 10:13

II. YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE – for God DOES NOT tempt you (v. 14)

- A. You can't blame God for your falling into temptation
- B. Garden of Eden "the woman YOU GAVE ME"
- C. My environment, my parents, my body, my background! – these are blame shifting. Anyone can give reasons for why they do anything, rather than say it's me, it's me.

III. YOUR SIN HAS AN END - for satan has a purpose in tempting you (v. 15)

- A. Drawing stage [enticement]
 - "drawn away" – hunting term – hunting dog on trail of rabbit and gets side-tracked by squirrel; or another dog
 - "enticed" - fisherman's term – Bait the hook; attracted by bait; take the bait and you are hooked (David and Bathsheba)
- B. Delighting stage [lust]
- C. Death stage [sin and death]

"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)

"...sin, when it is finished, brings forth death." (James 1:15)

"First, sin fascinates; then it assassinates. First, it thrills; then it kills." – Adrian Rogers

IV. YOU CAN EXPERIENCE VICTORY – over temptation by remembering 3 truths (v. 16-18)

- A. Remember God's Person (James 1:16-17) – God is good, all the time!
 - Joseph experienced victory by remembering how good God is (Genesis 39:9).
 - David sinned against God, forgetting how good God had been to him (2 Samuel 12:7-8).
- B. Remember God's Power (James 1:18a – "The Word of truth") – the power of His Word
 - Jesus experienced victory by remembering God's Word (Matthew 4:1-11; Ps. 119:9,11).
- C. Remember God's Plan (James 1:18b – "the first-fruits of His creation")
 - Don't forget that you are not an animal. You are made in God's image (Gen. 1:27).
 - You are the object of His love (John 3:16). You have a destiny to fulfill (Jeremiah 29:11).

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

Other helpful tips:

- 1) Learn scriptures that deal with the temptation you are faced with. (Psalm 119:9, 11)
- 2) Don't make provision for the flesh, or don't set yourself up for failure. (Romans 13:14)
- 3) Pray when you are tempted. (Matthew 26:41)
- 4) Don't associate with those who will encourage you to be tempted. (Prov. 13:20; 1 Cor. 6:14)
- 5) Be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit, walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16)