

# Dealing With Temptations

(Part 1)  
James 1:2-4

- ▶ James wrote this epistle to the dispersed Jewish Christians, sometime between AD 45 and AD 62.

- Likely the earlier part of this period.

- ▶ Author:

- Appears to be James, the half-brother of Jesus. (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3).
- Did not believe in Jesus during His ministry. (John 7:5)
- After the resurrection and appearance of Jesus to him, James became a disciple. (1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 1:14)
- Leader in the Jerusalem church. (Galatians 2:9; Acts 15:13ff) When Paul visited Jerusalem, he brought greetings to James. (Acts 21:18)

- ▶ Recipients:

- Believers of Jewish origin.
- "... to the twelve tribes which are of the Dispersion..."
- Addressed as "*brethren*" at least 15 times (ASV).
- Possibly those driven out of Jerusalem following the death of Stephen. Acts 8:1,4; Acts 11:19-20

- ▶ Recipients:

- Christians whose faith in Jesus Christ would be tested by the pagan society in which they lived.
- Christians whose faith in Jesus Christ would be tested by their own countrymen.
  - These would be different from those about them.
- Most were poor and being oppressed by the rich. (James 2:6-7)
- Temptation:
  - Desire to avoid pain.
  - Desire to enjoy pleasure.

## Summary Of The Book

- ▶ Chapter 1: Trials build mature character. *James 1:2-4*

- Though all are subject to temptation, these are not from God, but result from man's evil desires and eventually leads to spiritual death (1:13-17).
- A man must be more than a hearer of the word, he must also be a doer if he is to be blessed (1:25).
- This is illustrated in such practical application as caring for the fatherless and destitute widows (1:27).

## Summary Of The Book

- ▶ Chapter 2: It is reprehensible to make over the rich and exhibit contempt for the poor. *James 2:1-4*

- The royal law requires to treat all alike and avoid all respect of persons and to be merciful. (2:5-13).
- This chapter emphasizes that faith apart from works is dead and that "*by works a man is justified and not by faith only*" (KJV 2:14-24).

## Summary Of The Book

- ▶ Chapter 3: Teachers have a very heavy responsibility.
  - *"Be not many of you teachers my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment" (3:1).*
  - Though it be with great difficulty, we must learn to control our tongue and use it wisely (3:2-8).
  - It is inconsistent to spew from the same mouth blessing and cursing (3:9-12).
  - In verses 13-18 the writer discusses true wisdom that is from above and exhibits itself in kindness toward others.

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## Summary Of The Book

- ▶ Chapter 4: Improper desires are never completely satisfied (4:1-2).
  - Some ask and do not receive because they ask with the wrong motives for the wrong things (4:2-3). *"Friendship with the world is enmity with God ..." (4:4).*
  - We are to resist the devil that he might flee from us and *"draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you" (4:8).*
  - We should avoid being the harping critic and never be guilty of attempting to presume the powers and privileges of God (4:11-12).
  - Let us ever learn to take God into our plans and live for today, for we have no promise of tomorrow. *"... what is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away ..." (4:13-17).*

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## Summary Of The Book

- ▶ Chapter 5: To those who are rich, beware.
  - Those things that you have wrongfully taken will witness against you in the day of judgment (5:1-6).
  - The faithful are to patiently endure as Job, assured that a day of comfort is coming (5:7-11).
  - In verse 12 they are warned to do what they say they will do.
  - Singing and praying is to solace the soul in life's trials and to express joy (5:13-15).
  - We are to confess our sins to one another and pray for one another, for the prayers of the righteous avails much (5:16-18).
  - If any brother should err from the truth, he is to receive immediate attention to save his soul from death (5:19-20).

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## Reminder:

- ▶ Let us remember that not everyone who grows old, grows up.
- ▶ Mature Christians are happy, despite the trials they face.
- ▶ They are useful as they overcome the temptations that plague our way.
- ▶ They are Christians who help encourage others and build up local churches.

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## Temptations

- All are subject to temptations. Luke 17:1
- ▶ No person is immune. 2 Timothy 3:12
  - ▶ Manifold temptations. 1 Peter 1:6
    - Not the same for all. *"Wiles"*(Ephesians 4:14; 6:11)
    - Numerous devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
  - ▶ Your case is not unique. cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 4:15-16
    - Rich or poor. James 1:9-11
    - Young or old. Titus 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:22

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## Temptations

- Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12
- ▶ Temptation is not sin. cf. Proverbs 1:10
  - ▶ Sin is committed when *desire* controls. cf. James 1:13-15
    - God does not tempt us; He cannot be blamed for our failures.
  - ▶ *Epithumia* "desire, craving, longing."
    - Good or bad determined by context. Luke 22:15; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:17; James 1:14-15
    - Consider Joseph. Genesis 39:7-13
    - Consider David. 2 Samuel 11:1-27

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## Temptations

Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Jesus was tempted. Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1-11
  - Weary. John 4:6
  - Thirsty. John 4:7; 19:28
  - Hungry. Matthew 4:2
  - Because he was tempted, he is able to help us. Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15; cf. 5:2

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## Temptations

Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptations are not punishment. cf. Hebrews 12:7-11
- ▶ Faith is proved or tested. 1 Peter 1:6; 4:12
- ▶ Success results in patience ... Hope. James 1:3, 12; Romans 5:3-5
- ▶ James 1:4 May be "*perfect*" *teleion* "properly, brought to its end, finished; lacking nothing necessary to completeness; perfect." (Thayer)
- ▶ No temptation greater than we can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9

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## Help With Temptation

God's word rightly applied. 2 Timothy 2:15; Jeremiah 10:23

- ▶ *Psalms 119:9 "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed (thereto) according to thy word."*
- ▶ *Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."*
- ▶ *Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path."*
- ▶ *Proverbs 4:5 "Get wisdom, get understanding; Forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth."*
- ▶ Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus used the Scriptures.

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## Help With Temptation

*"Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth."* Ecclesiastes 12:1

- ▶ Joseph. Genesis 39
- ▶ David. 1 Samuel 17
- ▶ Daniel. Daniel 1
- ▶ Jesus was 12 when he "*must be about his father's business.*" Luke 2:42-49; cf. Luke 2:52
- ▶ NO TIME FOR WILD OATS. Galatians 6:7-8

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