

February 6th & 7th, 2010
10 Basic Steps - Wk #6
Winning the Daily Battle

James 1:13-18 - P. 854

We regularly face temptation. The problem, however, is that many of us do not know how to overcome temptation and win the battle.

I. Temptation Is _____ (1:13a)

Verse 13a, “*When tempted. . .*” Temptation is always present in life. There are opposing forces constantly trying to draw you in the opposite direction of the life that God wants you to live.

II. Temptation Is _____ (1:13b, 16-17)

Verse 13 “*When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.*” James is calling you to assume personal responsibility for handling your temptations. (Genesis

3:12-13).

Verses 16-17: “*Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*” Temptations come from one of three sources: the world, the flesh, and the devil. You must realize that nothing outside of yourself—not even Satan—is strong enough to cause you to sin.

III. Temptation Is _____ (1:14-15)

Temptation follows a consistent pattern.

Verse 14 “*But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.*”

The devil knows where you are most vulnerable.

Verse 15, “*Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*”

Sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. It all begins in the mind.

IV. Temptation Is _____ (1:18)

You are not weak! You are in Christ, and Christ is in you!

⁴*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* 1 John 4:4

You have the living God alive and at work in you! You can handle temptation if you handle it the right way.

Verse 18, “*He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.*”

Ephesians 2:10 “*We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.*”

The primary motivation for overcoming temptation is an acute awareness of who you now are in Jesus Christ and what it is that you are becoming—a person conformed to his image.

The real battle is in the realm of your mind.

FAITH -- ⁴*for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.* ⁵*Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.* 1John 5:4-5

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰ *I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.* ¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.* Psalm 119:9-11

FLIGHT -- (Joseph in O.T.) ³*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. 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 stand up under it.* 1 Cor. 10:13

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Tim. 2:22

FIGHT -- *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.* Eph. 6:11

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Cor. 10:4-5

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Rev. 12:11

God not only caused you to be born again by his Word of truth, but he has also chosen to deliver you on a daily basis the same way.