

James – A Portrait of Living Faith

Memory Challenge: James Chapter 1: 1-18...

Lesson 3: Internal Temptations (James 1:13-18)

James begins this brief discourse with the emphatic statement in verse 13a when he states: ***Let no one say*** (as an excuse for his sin) ***when he is tempted, "I am tempted of God."***

In this passage, James gives four reasons why God cannot be responsible for our temptations and for the sin that often results from our evil lusts and desires. James addresses: (1) the nature of Evil (v. 13 b), (2) the nature of Man (v14), (3) the nature of Lust (v. 15), and (4) the nature of God (v. 17).

- I. **The Nature of Evil** (v13 b). ***For God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone to evil.***

The holiness of God and the nature of evil cannot co-exist. The two are mutually exclusive, they can never co-exist in the same realm.

- II. **The Nature of Man – How then are we tempted to sin?** (v14) ***“But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.”***

Every human being is tempted , there are no exceptions. Our own lusts and evil desires, lure us into the trap set by Satan (the father of lies and deceit).

We have the responsibility for identifying the areas where we are most prone to fail.

- III. **The Nature of Lust** (v15) – ***What is the process that leads to sin?*** (v15) ***“Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. V. 16” Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”***

Sin begins in the mind and often through the senses of sight or hearing. The next step in the process is deception, when we rationalize and justify. The next step in the process is design as we make plans to fulfill our desires.. And finally, the act of disobedience when we move forward with the sinful act.

We must win the battle in our minds on a regular basis, and conquer our _ for Christ’s sake.

- IV. **The Nature of God** (v17). ***Opposed to Nature of evil, the nature of Man, and the Nature of lust...”Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the father of lights, with whom is no variation or shifting shadow.”***

Because God is wholly righteous, He can have no part of sin or evil, to any degree. James states in verse 17 that God can only deliver good things and perfect gifts.

V. The Regeneration of Man's Soul (v. 18) "*Of His own will, He brought us forth with the Word of Truth, that we would be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.*"

The act of regeneration is only and wholly an act of God. He, *of his own will* and pleasure, brought us forth (gives birth), with the Word of Truth.

We are his first fruits, the first and the best among his creation.

Rev. 14:4: These have been purchased (from the slave market of sin) among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

This week strive to Live for Him, who died for you.