



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

TRUE FAITH DOES NOT GIVE into TEMPTATION, Part 3-JAMES 1:16-17

COLORADO

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We have two choices regarding the temptations we face; God's way and man's way. We can be tempted, but that's not sin. We can be enticed, and that's not sin. It becomes sin when the lust or desire is dwelled on, focused on and then acted on. Our lust, our desires lead us to sin and sin is missing God's standard of holiness, righteousness. Our flesh is weak and we are easily seduced. We must turn to the Lord for wisdom, turn to His Word and know as 2 Peter 2:9 says, "The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation." Temptation is common to all men but we must take God's way of escape and not be deceived by the lure of our selfish desires. And God's way of escape is never contrary to Scripture, and never gives in to temptation but endures to maturity. True faith does not give in to temptation but endures to maturity.

I. TRUE FAITH DOES NOT GIVE IN TO TEMPTATION: PART 3 - JAMES 1:16-17

"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." James 1:13-17

A. DON'T BE DECEIVED! – JAMES 1:16

"Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." James 1:16

God desires to use trials and temptations that we experience to bring about maturity. James warns us not to be deceived, as Eve was deceived by the serpent in Genesis 3, with temptations and yielded to sin.

"deceived" Greek word "**planao**," meant to roam from safety, truth, virtue, go astray, deceive, err, seduce, wander, be out of the way, off the path.

We are to endure through trials and never give in to temptations to sin. The key is to not be deceived. If it leads to sin, it is not God's way of escape, it's mine. And we are easily deceived, stray and wander off the path God intends. No trial is a pleasure and conversely often temptations seem to be pleasurable. We have to watch what we feel because those feelings can lead us into sin. We cannot be controlled by our emotions which come and go.

When we are in a trial or temptation, we have to watch what we think. We must remember Who God is and why God permits the trial. God never tempts anyone but uses all things to bring about Christlikeness and maturity in our lives. In order to control our flesh, which desires, we must be

obedient as Hebrews 12:1-5 exhorts: *"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin."*

Satan comes along with the bait to entice us to sin. But we must watch what we think, never believe what is contrary to Scripture and remember that God will provide what I need to endure to maturity through the trial or temptation. And we have access to God through prayer when we don't know what to do. All we need to do is ask Him for wisdom Who gives to all men generously and that's grace. So in a trial, remember to pray. And don't let your flesh make you think contrary to what God can do! He is gracious.

And we must watch what we desire. In every trial there is an opportunity for temptation. To yield to temptation is my way of escape. We can distort the truth, and yield to temptation and sin. We must watch what we feel, think and desire. God always allows a trial, not to tempt us to sin, but rather to prove our character. So God is not the problem when we sin. We cannot blame God or others, but we must realize what is happening and get back to safety. Our flesh is weak and we are easily seduced or stray. We need to have constant input from God and His Word so that we don't roam from *"safety and truth"* and be deceived. Remember Psalm 119:9-11:

"How can a young man keep his way pure?

By keeping it according to Thy word.

With all my heart I have sought Thee;

Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.

Thy word I have treasured in my heart,

That I may not sin against Thee."

We must arm ourselves with God's Word and prayer together with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives so that we can resist temptation and sin, and endure to maturity.

And we must remember that when we sin, 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all*

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0107

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unrighteousness.” This is God’s provision and means whereby we can come back into a right relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

B. THE SOLUTION FOR TEMPTATION – JAMES 1:17

“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” James 1:17

The solution for not yielding to sin in our lives is found in a close relationship with Jesus Christ and submitted to the Word of God to the point that we actually respond to God’s Word with obedience and godliness.

1. GOD’S GIFTS: GOOD AND PERFECT—JAMES 1:17A

“good thing” Greek word **“*agathos dosis*,”** meaning profitable gift, useful gift, benefitting one’s personal character in being a gift from God.

Don’t be deceived. Everything that is good, everything that is profitable and useful, that benefits our character, comes from God. James continues with:

“perfect gift” Greek word **“*teleios dorema*,”** means act of giving by God to make us obedient, mature, whole in Christ, full growth in Christ, perfect, flawless, holy goodness of God results in His doing and giving only, what reflects His perfect holiness and truth.

James is saying that every action of God and everything that God gives to us is perfect and complete in regards to His holiness. The word *“perfect”* is the same word used in James 1:4. There is no evil in anything that God gives us and therefore everything He gives is for the purpose of bringing about maturity and obedience to Christ. All of God’s gifts to us are totally perfect and are completely within His holiness and righteous nature. They are profitable throughout all of life enabling us to resist temptation, and instead, obey our Lord through the most difficult of circumstances and temptations. God’s gifts are good and perfect. They come from *“above”*.

2. GOD’S GIFTS: FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHT, WHO NEVER CHANGES—JAMES 1:17B

James uses the brightness of the sun to reveal more fully the character of God and the nature of His gifts to us. James says these gifts come *“down from*

the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” (James 1:17)

“light” Greek word **“*phos*,”** meaning the light of the sun in its intensity and brightness, unable to be looked at directly. The light that is never kindled and therefore never quenched in contrast to the Greek word, **“*luchnos*,”** which is kindled by the hands of another, representing a handheld lamp fed with oil.

God is the *“Father of light”*, meaning He is the Creator and source of all light. The sun which He created is so intense and penetrating that it can permanently damage our eyes with prolonged exposure. And yet, our heavenly Father is even brighter than the light of the sun, distinct to all other light which will eventually fade. The light of the sun comes and goes, from day to night. You can hide from it in the shade. This stands in contrast to God and His nature whereby there is no shadow, variation or diminishment in His character, thereby reflecting the glorious gifts He provides which are for the purpose of choosing His way of escape to endure to maturity.

Philo, the first-century Jewish philosopher said this, contrasting God with His creation, *“Every created thing must necessarily undergo change, for this is its property, even as unchangeableness is the property of God.”* We can rest assured on the unchangeable nature of God Who has given us His life giving Word and *“everything pertaining to life and godliness.”* (2 Peter 1:3-4) The sun is always casting different lights and shadows as the earth rotates throughout the day and night. At night, there is no light at all from the sun. But James is saying that God is not like this. God is the Father of lights. His is unchanging reflecting His nature; never diminished, never hidden, never corrupt, never varies. God is constant, faithful and trustworthy! God is the *“same yesterday, today and forever!”* as Hebrews 13:8 says. He will always give to us immeasurably; just what we need to live the life He has called us to live.

Don’t be deceived by the trials and temptations that come your way. They have not come from God, for everything that is good comes from God. So if it leads to sin, it is not God’s way of escape for God’s way of escape through the temptation will never be contrary to Scripture. God never tricks or tries to deceive us or cause us to fail, but rather tests to prove our faith genuine, bringing about maturity in our lives, resulting in silver that’s refined, pure and useful for the Master’s work. God’s gifts are always better than Satan’s bargains...so wait patiently. The gifts He lavishly provides can enable us to live obedient godly lives. They are the most unbelievable, perfect gifts from the Lord of the universe, the One Who is unchanging and steadfast. Jesus, Himself cared so much that we would not fall into temptation that He prayed for us in John 17:13-21 before He went to the cross. Why would we ever turn our backs on God and follow the desire of temptation. Obeying spares us the awful consequence of our sin. It’s a choice. Why should evil even have the slightest attraction when God has showered us with blessings!