

**Faith that Works**  
**“How to Face Temptations”**  
**James 1:13-18**

**Introduction** - The theme of James is *Faith that Works*. The faith that works is a faith that is *joyful in trials* and *triumphant in temptation*. If we are going to mature in our walk with the Lord, we must learn how to face temptations.

Three things to remember:

**I. Temptation’s Source, vv. 13-14**

**A. It does not come from God, vs. 13.**

- Ask, why would James say this?
- Answer, when we sin, we naturally want to shift blame.
- “*There are two eras in American history, the passing of the buffalo and the passing of the buck,*” Will Rogers.
- We play the blame game - Our parents, our family, our environment, our friends.
  
- And yes, we even blame God!

Why did he let this happen? God made me this way!  
Illus.: Adam, “*The woman you gave me....*”

So don’t blame others and don’t blame God!

1. “For God cannot be tempted with evil.” It’s emphatic. Why? Because God is perfectly Holy! He has no needs.
  
2. “Neither does He tempt anyone,” or literally he himself tempts no man, again it emphatic.

Ask? Where does it come from?

**B. It comes from our “own lust,” vs. 14.**

N.I.V... “*you are dragged away by your own evil desire..*”

- We have found the enemy, and the enemy is us!
- We must take responsibility for our sin.
- The problem is, “*our lust or desires.*”
- We need to understand the nature of “*man.*”
- Man’s fall, so sin nature.

- The Christian has three enemies.  
The devil, the world and the flesh.

## II. Temptation's Course, vv. 14-15.

James gives us the course of temptation. There are three steps.

### 1. **Desire**, vs. 14.

Note two words, "*drawn away*." It's used in fishing "*to lure*." Also, "*enticed*," to "*set a bait*," to "*ensnare*." A.T. Robertson, "*Snared by one's own bait*."

### 2. **Disobedience**, vs. 15a.

"*When lust has conceived, it brings forth sin*." The language is now that of "*conception and childbirth*." It's not a son to be tempted.

### 3. **Death**, vs. 15b.

"*And sin, when it is finished brings for death*."

**Note:** Three generations.

1. The mother, "desire."
2. The daughter, "disobedience."
3. The grand-daughter, "death."

**Illus.:** Eve, 1. "good for food."

2. "she did eat."
3. "death"

David: 1. "Desire"

2. "Disobedience"
3. "Death"

Note: Death! Ask? What kind of death?

1. Physical death.
2. Spiritual death.
3. Eternal death.

Remember sin leads to death.

Galatians, "Reep & Sow."

Note, vs. 16. "Don't be deceived."

### III. **Temptation Conquered**, vv. 16-18

Two keys to victory!

#### **1. Remember God's Goodness**, vs. 17.

God is the source of all good. If you doubt God's goodness, you will be tempted to disobey Him and seek to satisfy your desires in a sinful way.

**Illus.:** Remember Nathan's words to David.

Note:

- The way God gives is good, vs. 17 - "every act of giving"
- What God gives is good, vs. 17 - "perfect gift"
- God gives constantly, vs. 17 - "cometh down," present tense
- The God who gives is good, vs. 17 - "Father of Lights" and "does not change." So you can trust Him in the darkest of times.

#### **2. Receive God's New Nature**, vs. 18

Note: "*Begat He us*" - Born-Again! So a new nature!

How?

1. "*Of His own will*" - it's a divine work!
2. "*With the Word of truth.*" It's the gospel, God's word. So faith is man's part, Eph. 2:8-9. The condition, John 3:16.
3. "*That*" (so the results), we should be kind of first fruits of His creatures.

If you're born of God, you overcome the world!

1. Remember the source.
2. Remember the course.
3. Remember God's goodness.
4. Receive His greatest gift, *A New Nature*.