



Title: Temptation: The Invisible Killer

Date: September 24, 2023

Scripture Text: James 1:13-18

Series: The Behavior of a Believer

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We are continuing the series The Behavior of a Believer, a study of the book of James. In today's sermon we look at the impact of temptations. We see in [James 1:13](#) that temptations are not from God. God may test or send trials, both of which are intended to help us develop godly character, but never tempts. It's not a problem to be tempted. Everyone is tempted at some point. The question is how you respond when tempted. And if you succumb to temptation, are you willing to assume responsibility and repent or blame another, or even God. Let's look at James' description of temptation.

I. The Origin of Temptation (James 1:14)

We see in [vs. 14](#) that the origin of temptation is our own heart (lusts, desires, yearnings, passions). The passions/desires of the heart don't always have to be bad. We can have a passion to obey God, we can desire to see people saved, we can yearn for the word of God. The problem is when we are motivated by fleshly, selfish desire that we get into trouble. We must be quick to recognize the temptation and what are our motives.

- What is the difference between testing and tempting?
- How do we know that temptation does not come from God?
- Why is it so easy to find someone to blame for our mistakes instead of accepting responsibility and repenting?
- How can our motive play a role in our temptations?

II. The Deception of Temptation (James 1:14)

James describes how when we respond to temptation with fleshly motives, we are carried away and enticed. These two terms denote being lured or baited away to be hooked or trapped. This is what sin does. It looks inviting, but once you partake, you're caught, and it can be difficult to escape.

- What are other metaphors that describe the transition from temptation to sin?
- Pastor Brian described Lot as someone who lived too close to Sodom and Gomorrah. What did he mean by that?
 - What is a similar present-day example?

Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

850.878.5503

office@morningsidetlh.org



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

850.878.5503

office@morningsidetlh.org

III. The Consummation of Temptation (James 1:15)

James describes sin in the context of conception, birth, maturity, and death. Lust/desire transitions to sin at the birth step when we linger on the lustful thoughts or act upon them. For the believer, they experience broken fellowship with God until they repent. For the unbeliever, who doesn't repent, this leads to eternity in hell.

- Pick a sin and describe how it matures through the process James explains in [vs. 15](#).
- What does it mean to repent? What is required?
- Why is repentance needed to restore fruitful fellowship with God?

IV. The Perfection of God (James 1:17-18)

James in [vs. 13](#) tells us that temptation does not come from God. In [vs. 17](#) he tells us what does come from God, every good and perfect gift. God is the source of everything good, and we get to experience His goodness. We must focus our attention on God and use that focus to get our eyes off our temptations. We can train to do this by spending time in His word every day.

- How can keeping a focus on God help us combat temptation?
- How can spending time in the Bible every day help equip us to deal with our temptations in an appropriate way?
- What is one change you will make to help you combat temptation?

How do you overcome temptation?

- **FLEE** ([2 Tim. 2:22](#))
- **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit ([Gal. 5:16](#))
- **PRAY** ([Heb. 4:16](#))
- **WORD** ([Ps. 119:11](#))

Use the Bible as a weapon of warfare. You are being fished for/hunted when facing temptation. Choose the Bible, not the bait!!