

# **Successfully Combatting Temptation**

**James 1:12-15**

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<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

<sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

<sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

<sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

# 10 Biblical Facts About Temptation

1. To feel temptation, in itself, is not good or evil. Jesus was tempted and He was without sin.
2. The purpose of temptation is *always to trigger a choice and provoke a definite stand or action*
3. Temptation is not the cause of sin, trouble, or wrongdoing. It just presents us with a choice to make.
4. Temptation will bring out what is really in our hearts, for how we respond to temptation reveals what we really are!

# James 1:9-15

5. Our response to temptation also reveals whether we have learned the lessons God wants us to learn.
6. Some temptations are the result of natural causes (i.e., biological design, emotional temperament); other temptations result from wrong or sinful choices in the past.
7. Temptation and testing, when faced correctly, becomes a means of grace and can result in a more powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit in your life.

# James 1:9-15

8. How we respond to temptation reveals the depth of our love, commitment, and loyalty to God.
9. Temptation and testing is part of God's character development curriculum. God uses it to rebuild our minds and give us new values.
10. When facing temptation, there are just two choices on the shelf: pleasing God or pleasing self.

# James 1:9-15



# Six Steps in the Temptation Process

**Step 1 is ATTENTION.**

**Step 2 is ATTRACTION.** “our own desires”

**Step 3 is ALLUREMENT.** “enticed”

**Step 4 is ACCEPTANCE.** “conceived”

**Step 5 is ACTIVITY, APPETITE and ADDICTION.**

**Step 6 is the AWARD (penalty) for sin.** “Sin, when it is finished (full-grown), gives birth to death.”

# Successfully Combatting Temptation

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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 endure it.

- I. The Commonality of Temptation.
- II. The Commitment of God.
  - A. The faithfulness of God.
  - B. The promise of God.

# Successfully Combatting Temptation

- I. **The Commonality of Temptation.**
- II. **The Commitment of God.**
- III. **The Course of Action we must take.**
  1. **Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
  2. **Identify** your areas of weakness.
  3. **Build** barriers into your life, home, work.
  4. **Commit** to full obedience to God and His Word.

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## III. The Course of Action we must take.

5. **Flee** youthful passions - 2 Tim. 2:22
6. **Associate** with Godly people, friends.
7. **Stay Alert** - **1 Peter 5:8** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
8. **Pray** - Lord, show me Your way of escape!
9. **Memorize scripture** - dealing with your area of temptation.

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## III. The Course of Action we must take.

**10. Become accountable** to a strong Christian.

**11. Ask** for prayer from Christian friends.

**12. Encourage** yourself with verse of victory:

- Philippians 4:13 - "I can ... thru Christ."
- Luke 1:37 – "With God nothing shall be impossible."
- 1 John 4:4 – "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."
- 2 Cor. 12:9 – God's strength is made perfect in weakness."

# God's Promises

**James 1:12** Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial [testing; temptation] because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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 endure it.

# **Successfully Combatting Temptation**

**Today we have reviewed the process of temptation and learned how to successfully combat temptation.**

**In 1 Corinthians 10:13, we learned:**

- I. The Commonality of Temptation.**
- II. The Commitment of God to us in temptation.**
- III. The Course of Action we must take.**

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