

## James - Faith @ Work | An Expository Sermon Series

James 1:13-15 | Pt. 5 | "Temptations, Testing, & Trials" | May 31st, 2026

### **Review / Summary:**

This week, we explored James 1:13-15, examining the critical differences between God's testing of our faith and the temptations that arise from our own desires. We discovered that while God tests us to prove the genuineness of our faith and produce spiritual maturity, He never tempts us to sin. Instead, temptation originates from our own weaknesses and desires.

Understanding this distinction is essential for our spiritual growth and helps us avoid misplacing blame on God when we struggle. The message equipped us to recognize temptation's root, realize desire's danger, and resist sin's downward spiral by relying on Christ's victory.

### **Key Takeaways:**

✓ **God never tempts us to sin**—temptation originates from our own desires, not from God's character

✓ **There is a logical progression to sin**—desire → conception → sin → death (knowing this helps us intervene early)

✓ **Not all desires are evil**—we must discern between natural desires and sinful desires

✓ **Scripture is our weapon**—Jesus used God's Word to combat temptation, and so can we

✓ **Every temptation has an escape route**—God always provides a way out (1 Cor. 10:13)

✓ **We need Christ's strength daily**—we cannot overcome temptation in our own power

✓ Testing produces maturity; temptation leads to death—one builds faith, the other destroys it

### **Practical Applications: What This Means For You (Choose One or Two to Try This Week)**

#### **Option 1: Scripture Memorization**

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13 or James 1:14-15
- Write it on a card and place it where you'll see it daily
- Use it as a weapon when temptation strikes

#### **Option 2: Introspection Exercise**

- Set aside 20 minutes for prayerful self-examination
- Identify your top 3 areas of vulnerability to temptation
- For each one, write out:
  - What triggers this temptation?
  - What is the progression in MY life (desire → sin)?
  - What "escape route" can I take?

#### **Option 3: "Run" Strategy**

- Identify one temptation you're currently facing
- Create a practical "escape plan" (like Joseph fleeing Potiphar's wife)
- What do you need to remove, avoid, or change?

**Going Deeper into James 1:13-15:**

**1.** Why is it crucial to understand that God is not the source of our temptations?

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**2.** James describes a progression: desire → conception → sin → death. Walk through this progression with a common temptation. How does this help you see where to intervene?

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**3.** Reread Matthew 4:1-11. How does Jesus' temptation in the wilderness help us understand that God doesn't tempt us, even though He may allow us to be tested?

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**4.** Read Hebrews 2:18. How does Jesus' experience with temptation equip and encourage you in your own battles?

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**Questions for Reflection:**

**1.** What desires in my life are currently most dangerous?

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**2.** Where am I trying to fight temptation in my own strength instead of relying on Christ?

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**3.** Am I blaming God for anything I should take responsibility for?

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**Memory Verse: James 1:13**

"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."

**Spend Time Praying This Week:**

- Wisdom to recognize the root of our temptations
- Strength to resist sinful desires before they give birth to sin
- A deeper dependence on Christ's victory over temptation
- Specific temptations that group members are facing
- Gratitude for God's faithfulness in providing escape routes