

Faith That Works

Pt. 4 – Resist the Devil

Every word and action begins with a thought.

Words and actions have consequences.

Temptation: *The desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.*

Temptation is the desire to go against God's Word.

Temptation is universal.

Temptation doesn't go away.

Satan isn't trying to test me, he's trying to destroy me.

Temptation is a fact of life.

Being tempted is not sin.

Jam. 1:14 ...each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

With God's help, I can win the war over temptation!

Blame is the number one enemy of spiritual growth.

Jam. 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

Followers of Jesus are supposed to be humble.

³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? ⁶But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

To defeat temptation:

Submit to God.

Jam. 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God...

Resist the devil.

Jam. 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Resisting the devil is:

Active – not passive.

Intentional.

Ongoing.

Run from temptation!

Aggressive and extreme.

Be accountable.

Accountability: answering for and giving report of my actions, words, attitudes or behavior; owning my decisions and actions.

Have people in my life who have the right to ask me the tough questions and demand truthful answers.

Failure happens in isolation.

We are safer, better, and stronger when we resist the devil together.

Ecc. 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!... ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

If I follow the crowd, I will never lead the crowd.