

## James 1:13-17

**13.** "Let **no one** say when he is tempted, '**I am TEMPTED by God**'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

- **Mark 1:11-13** "Then a voice came from heaven, 'You are My beloved \_\_\_\_\_, in whom I am well \_\_\_\_\_.' And immediately the \_\_\_\_\_ drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the \_\_\_\_\_ forty days, \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him."

**Definition:** "God CANNOT be TEMPTED by EVIL, nor does He Himself TEMPT anyone" - This time, the word "tempt" does mean to entice or induce a person to do wrong. God does not tempt us with evil and He does not "lead us into temptation" to sin. When God disciplines us, He refines us, and tests us as part of our growth process -- it is for our good. You cannot blame God for your falling into sin, because He does not put stumbling blocks in your way, to see if you will slip and fall. He does NOT deliberately lead us into evil situations (see Matt. 6:13), **but He will USE an evil situation we have already gotten into for our GOOD.** Sometimes, as He did with Jesus, God will allow us to be tempted and tested by Satan. **"TESTING" means to qualify or prove** by way of being put through certain conditions or procedures, **in order to determine the QUALITY or CHARACTER of something. A "TRIAL" means a tryout or experiment to test the quality,** value or usefulness of something. Machines and automobiles are put through "stress tests" to see if they will hold up under extreme conditions. God may allow some of us to go through extreme afflictions or tribulations to determine if our faith is genuine. Sometimes, the testing is a refining process that is designed to **purge out of us certain impurities and sins** that are hindering our growth to Christ-likeness. In this refining process, the **"TESTING of our faith produces PATIENCE,"** and **"tribulation produces perseverance"** (James 1:2-4), which means it allows the character qualities of Christ to come to the surface, as the impurities are purged away. God's word says that our attitude while going through testings and trials should be JOY and REJOICING because God is perfecting us and making us like Christ.

- **Matthew 6:13** "And do not lead us into \_\_\_\_\_, but deliver us from the \_\_\_\_\_ one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."
- **I Thessalonians 3:4-5** "For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer \_\_\_\_\_, just as it happened, and you know. For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your \_\_\_\_\_, lest by some means the \_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ you, and our labor might be in vain."

**14.** "But each one is TEMPTED when he is **drawn away by his own DESIRES and ENTICED.**"

- **Galatians 5:24** "And those who are Christ's have \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ with its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Galatians 5:16** "I say then: Walk in the \_\_\_\_\_, and you shall not fulfill the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition:** "**Drawn away by his own DESIRES and ENTICED** - The Bible tells us that our old sin nature is DEAD (Romans 6:1-7), so where do temptations, lusts and desires to sin come from in the life of the Christian? You've heard the expression

"Running around like a chicken with its head cut off." Back in the old days, you couldn't just buy nice, clean, cut-up chicken at the market, but you actually had to kill a chicken. A chicken's nervous system is not complex, so even after the head is cut off, and the brain can no longer send messages to the body, the body will still flop around, jerk and make movements until the nervous system finally shuts down. This is a picture of how we are with the flesh. Our physical bodies ("the flesh") are still operating, not realizing that the head (the old sin nature) has been cut off. Just as the chicken's nervous system finally gets the message and stops flopping around, **our physical bodies will eventually stop giving us trouble as we RENEW our MINDS with God's word.** Colossians 3:1-10 tell us that it is our "members on earth" that are causing us trouble. It is the body of flesh, our physical body that gives us trouble while we are on earth. This body has not yet been born again, renewed or changed - that will happen at the resurrection (Romans 8:22-23). **In the meantime, the body and its members ("the flesh") must be KEPT in SUBMISSION to the new man in Christ.**

- **I Corinthians 9:27** "But I \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ and bring it into \_\_\_\_\_, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (lose my testimony)."
- **Matthew 16:24-25** "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him \_\_\_\_\_ himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to \_\_\_\_\_ his life will lose it, and whoever \_\_\_\_\_ his life for \_\_\_\_\_ sake will find it.'"
- **Ephesians 4:22** "That you \_\_\_\_\_, concerning your former \_\_\_\_\_, the old man, which grows \_\_\_\_\_ according to the deceitful \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "HIS OWN DESIRES"** - James 1:14 says "one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires." You might say, "How are they 'my own' desires, then, if my old sin nature is dead, and I am a new person in Christ?" They are "**your own**" in the sense that **YOU EXPOSED your flesh** (your physical body, or mental-emotional makeup) to something, whether it was alcohol, nicotine, drugs, certain sexual behaviors, pornography, **negative destructive thoughts**, over-eating, or other "compulsive" behaviors, until a **HABIT** was developed, and after enough times of exposure, **your FLESH was TRAINED to DESIRE or want those things.** The **OPPOSITE** is also true: **TRAIN** your flesh to do the right things, the things of God, and eventually the sinful desires which kept you in **BONDAGE** will subside and no longer be able to affect you. Satan, or the old "tapes running in your mind" or your uncontrolled emotions will keep bringing up "old desires" **AS IF you were still subject to them**, telling you that you are NOT free, but still in bondage to old habits, and that you **CAN'T** help yourself, you **can't stop** committing that particular sin, etc. **You have a CHOICE of WHO you will believe - GOD or SATAN!**

- **Galatians 2:20** "I have been \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but \_\_\_\_\_ lives in me; and the \_\_\_\_\_ which I now live in the flesh (in my human body) I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
- **Colossians 3:1-3** "If then you were \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ those things which are \_\_\_\_\_, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set (focus) your \_\_\_\_\_ on things \_\_\_\_\_, not on things on the earth. For you \_\_\_\_\_, and your life is hidden with \_\_\_\_\_ in God."

**15. "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and SIN, when it is FULL-GROWN, brings forth DEATH."**

- **Romans 8:13** "For if you live according to the \_\_\_\_\_ you will \_\_\_\_\_; but if by the Spirit you \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, you will live."
- **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **Romans 7:5** "For when we were in the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which were aroused by the law were at work in our \_\_\_\_\_ to bear fruit to \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "SIN, when it is FULL-GROWN, brings forth DEATH" - It is not a sin to just be tempted by something, because even Jesus was tempted,** but without giving in to the sin (Hebrews 4:14-15). The sin, with the final results of death, comes when we give in to the temptation to sin, and wallow and remain in it. For the Christian, this means physical death, but for the non-believer, it also means eternal, spiritual death in the Lake of Fire (hell). To "DENY himself" and "lose his life for My sake" and "put to death the DEEDS of the BODY" all mean the same thing: to get rid of, GIVE UP, DENY (say "No" to) the desires of your old sin nature; to DISREGARD the INTERESTS of the old man (**why should you pay attention to his interests? he's dead anyway!**). By doing this you fulfill God's will in your life - you give up the "lower" life in order to live the "higher life" with Christ (Phil. 3:12-14). Praise God! **We have a CHOICE!** We can PUT to DEATH, or **KILL those IMPULSES** and temptations coming from our FLESH (the "deeds of the BODY"), and Romans 8:13 says **we do it "by the SPIRIT** - by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives (Eph. 3:20). The **other choice** or alternative is to GIVE IN to the temptations, **ACT OUT on the impulses**, and suffer the consequences. For a true, born again **Christian who CONTINUES to LIVE in sin** and according to the desires of his FLESH, **an EARLY physical DEATH** may be the consequence. God may CUT SHORT the life here on earth of one of His children who continues in DISOBEDIENCE, but they will still go to HEAVEN (I John 5:16, I Corinthians 3:15, I Cor. 5:1-5).

- **Hebrews 4:14-15** "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points \_\_\_\_\_ as we are, yet without \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Hebrews 2:17-18** "Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for (to pay for) the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being \_\_\_\_\_, He is able to aid those who are \_\_\_\_\_."

## 16. "Do not be DECEIVED, my beloved brethren."

- **I John 1:8** "If we say that we have no \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ in us."
- **Jeremiah 17:9** "The heart is more \_\_\_\_\_ than all else, and desperately \_\_\_\_\_, who can know it?"
- **I John 3:7** "Little children, let no one \_\_\_\_\_ you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be \_\_\_\_\_, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also \_\_\_\_\_. For he who \_\_\_\_\_ to his \_\_\_\_\_ will of the flesh reap \_\_\_\_\_, but he who sows to the \_\_\_\_\_ will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

**Definition: "Do not be DECEIVED"** - The dictionary defines "deceive" as "to cause to accept as true and valid what is false and invalid." **To be deceived would mean you had accepted and believed false information.** It could be accepting false

doctrine given out by Satan, or just being self-deceived, which is another way to say "being in denial."

**17. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of LIGHTS, with whom there is NO VARIATION or SHADOW of turning."**

- **I John 1:5-7** "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is \_\_\_\_\_ and in Him is no \_\_\_\_\_ at all. If we say that we have \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, and walk in \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_ and do not practice the \_\_\_\_\_. But if we \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ as He is in the \_\_\_\_\_, we have fellowship with one another, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from \_\_\_\_\_."
- **John 3:19-20** "And this is the condemnation, that the \_\_\_\_\_ has come into the world, and men loved \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_, because their deeds were \_\_\_\_\_. For everyone practicing evil \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and does not come to the \_\_\_\_\_, lest his deeds should be exposed."
- **Ephesians 5:11-12** "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, but rather expose them. "For it is \_\_\_\_\_ even to speak of those things which are done by them in \_\_\_\_\_. But all things that are \_\_\_\_\_ are made manifest (seen) by the \_\_\_\_\_, for whatever makes manifest is \_\_\_\_\_."
- **John 8:12** "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. He who follows Me shall \_\_\_\_\_ walk in \_\_\_\_\_, but have the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.'"
- **Psalms 103:2-5** "\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His \_\_\_\_\_: who \_\_\_\_\_ all your iniquities, who \_\_\_\_\_ all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with \_\_\_\_\_ things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."
- **Ephesians 1:3** "\_\_\_\_\_ be the \_\_\_\_\_ and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has \_\_\_\_\_ us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "There is NO VARIATION or SHADOW of turning"** - This means that God, as the God of light and love, is always GOOD, and does not fluctuate between being good one moment, and evil the next moment. He is not capricious or unreliable. His character always remains the same - good, kind and loving! God gets blamed for a lot of stuff that the devil does, and in our faulty understanding of His ways, we often blame and accuse God of bringing evil upon us in our lives. Either that, or we confuse God's working with the receiving of the consequences for our own wrong actions and choices. We conveniently forget that His word says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. **For he who sows (plants seeds) to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption (will harvest a crop of rotteness, bad results, painful consequences).**"

- **Numbers 23:19** "God is not a man, that He should \_\_\_\_\_, nor a son of man, that He should \_\_\_\_\_; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_?"