

“WINNING THE BATTLE WITHIN!”
(Jas.1:13-18)

This morning we will conclude our series on “Victorious Living” with a study on how to recognize and defeat temptations to sin. James is a very practical book that instructs us to make sure we know...

I. The Source of Temptation (13-14)

- Temptation **IS NOT** From God (13)
- Temptation **IS** From Our **Own Lust** (14)

II. The Steps of Temptation (15)

Lust →
Sin →
Death

III. The Solution For Temptation (16-18)

- Remember God's **Goodness** to us (16-17)
(Gen.3:4-5; 2 Cor.11:3; Gen.39:8-9; 2 Sam.12:7-9)
- Remember God's **Divine Nature** in us (18)
(Jn.1:12-13; 1 Jn.3:9; 5:4)

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Small Group Discussion Guide

ICEBREAKER: Share something that you enjoyed this past summer.

- **Read & discuss Jas.1:13-15.** Why might the original readers of James’ epistle be inclined to “blame God” for their temptations? (Jas. 1:1 might be a hint) What are some ways people might put the blame for their sin on God or someone else? Why is it counterproductive for us to do this?
- Why is it helpful to look at sin as a process (lust → sin → death) rather than as an isolated event? What are some strategies we can use to “nip sin in the bud” at the temptation level, before the lust (desire) brings forth sin?
- **Read and discuss Jas.1:17.** How should the truth of this verse help us to say “no” to temptation to sin? Share some ways that God has been good to you.
- **Read and discuss Jas.1:18.** How should the truth of this verse help us to say “no” to temptation? Read the amazing statement in 1 John 3:9. What hope does this verse give us?

DIGGING DEEPER

Compare & contrast how Joseph & David handled their temptations in Gen.39 & 2 Sam.11:1-14. What were some of the keys that helped Joseph to say “no” to temptation? What were some of the mistakes David made that led to sin?

The word “temptation” can also be translated as “trial” depending on context. Read Jas.1:1-18 and circle each time a form of the word “temptation” or “trial” occurs. Purpose before God to not let your trials become temptations to sin. (Consider also Gen.22:1; Mat.4:1; Mat.6:13; and 1 Cor.10:13)

Write down some key principles for resisting temptation that are in the following verses - Ps.119:11; Mat.4:4, 7, 10; Mat.26:41; Eph.6:10-18; 1 Pet.1:6-7; 5:8-9; Jas.4:7; 1 Jn.5:4; and Rev.12:11.