



Epistle of James

James 1:13-15 - Temptation in the Christian Life Part 2

- *James 1:13-15 - 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. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*
 - *Review of Temptation in the Christian Life Part 1:*
 - *peirazō* can be translated as being *tempted* or *tested*.
 - *Temptation* to sin may be internal or external.
 - *Temptation* to sin cannot come from God.
 - *Temptation* to sin → *lust* (craving for what is forbidden) → *sin* → *death*.
 - Let’s return to *verse 13* - ‘*God cannot be tempted by evil*’.
 - How then should we interpret the following?
 - » *Luke 4:5-7 - Then the devil, taking Him up he showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. “Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”*



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» *Matt 5:1-3 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

- Do we believe herein that the Lord Jesus Christ was *tempted* or *tested*?
- And how do we apply this to the exchanged life we believers have?
- Why is this different for us than for our heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit?

» *Acts 15:10; Heb 3:9; Matt 16:1, 19:3; John 8:6; 1 Cor 10:9; Acts 5:9*

- Will our sin nature ever change?
- How should *peirazō* be interpreted for us?
- So, then how do we respond to *temptation* or perhaps *testing*?
 - » *Rom 6:11 - Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 - » *1 John 2:27 - But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*
 - » *Phil 1:21 – For to me to live is Christ*
- To consider the power of His resurrection in us, this view of *temptation* must be founded in positional truth!



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- » 2 Cor 5:21 - *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
- » Col 3:1-3 - *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

- ***James 1:14 - But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.***

- Let's each of us ask ourselves - is this *drawing away*, or tempting/testing, mostly from Satan, the world system (*kosmos*), or internally (our own sin nature)?

- *drawing away (as bait)* from what?

- The truth and virtue which are wrapped up in the new creations we are in Christ Jesus.

- » 2 Cor 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

- Satan is clearly the god of this age; and the world system takes its toll too.

- » 2 Cor 4:3,4 - *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*



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» *Eph 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

- Chafer – ‘It has sometimes been held that the claim of possession of the earth was a lie, this being asserted on the ground that Satan is exposed in Scripture as a liar. Such a conclusion is impossible for at least two reasons. It would have been no temptation had he not possessed the kingdoms he offered; and any such false claim would have been immediately branded as a lie by the Son of God. **He is still further revealed as the recognized head of this world system in two additional passages:** *Because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world [Satanic system]; (1 John 4:4) And we know that we are of God, and the whole world [Satanic system] lieth in the wicked one (1 John 5:19).*’
- However, do you think God has given Satan the same permission to affect our lives as He allowed in Job?
 - » *Job 1:6-22*
- But in ourselves the sin nature never ceases does it and continues to operate day in and day out!
 - McCalley – ‘This verse tells us where temptation originates. The term his own lust points to the source. Everyone has an innate responder to sin; Paul often calls it the flesh, and sometimes we refer to it as the **sin nature. It cannot be abolished nor improved upon nor refined.**’



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- » *Rom 7:11,13 - For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.....Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.*
- » *Eph 4:20-23 - But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*

- Think of our many brothers and sisters who fail to recognize this important truth!

- ***James 1:15 - Then, when desire (lust) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown (passive), brings forth death.***

- Constable – ‘Lust in this context is the desire to do, have, or be something apart from the will of God. Lust is covert, but sometimes it manifests itself overtly.’
- How should *death* be interpreted here, just unworthy/separated?
 - A good metaphor here is pregnancy, conceived and then aborted.
 - » *Rom 8:6 - For to be carnally minded (conceived) is death (abortion), but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*



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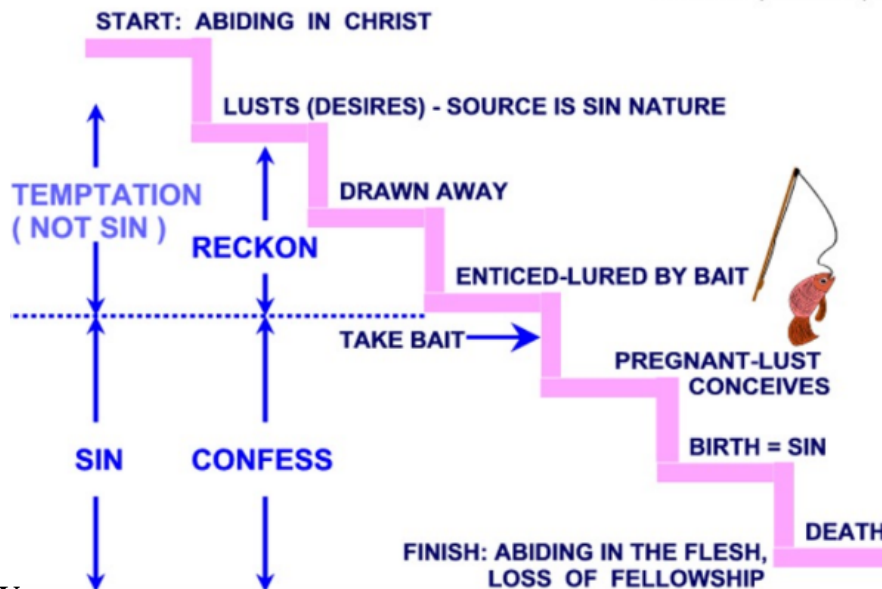
- » *Rom 6:21-23 - What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- » *James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

THE TEMPTATION PROCESS

JAMES 1:14-15

Rom 6:11; Col 3:25; Gal 5:24

And this diagram of Hal's says it all!



Hal Malloy