

James 1:13-15

Temptation in the Christian Life, Part 1

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James 1:13-15 (NASB)

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

It at first you don't succeed ...

*Blessed is a man who **perseveres** under **trial**; for once he has been **approved**, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

- Perseveres – endures temptation; to remain i.e. abide
 - Base of word in verse 1:3
 - See Hebrews 12:2 – that is us!
- Trials – enticement to sin; temptation
 - Temptation is dangerous under the law – Matthew 26:41
 - How does temptation fit into God's plan for us?
- Approved – approved as acceptable men
 - See note on next slide
 - What is “proved” is our faith in the person of Christ.
- Crown – *stephanos*; victor's crown
 - Vern has a handout on the crowns for the believer
 - Ultimately, a way for us to praise God

dokimos

"In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal, heated until liquid, poured into moulds and allowed to cool. When the coins were cooled, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft, and of course many people shaved them closely. In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens to stop the practice of whittling down the coins then in circulation. But some money-changers were men of integrity, who would accept no counterfeit money; they were men of honour who put only genuine, full-weight money into circulation. Such men were called dokimos, and this word is used here for the Christian as he is to be seen by the world." (Donald Grey Barnhouse, Romans: God's Glory, p. 18.)

The buck stops ... where?

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

- Overall context is the faith of the believer
- What we know to be true of God
 - 1:5 – He is generous and benevolent
 - 1:17 – Anything that is truly good comes from Him
- The goal for the believer
 - 1:4 – Spiritual maturity
 - 1:5 – Wisdom; Godly perspective
- Whether it be through trials or temptations, our faith is being “approved” .
- Two case studies: Abraham and Job

Testing Abraham

- Genesis 22:1-2 *Now it came about after these things, that God **tested** Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."*
- Test – to test, try, prove, tempt, assay, put to the proof or test
 - See Exodus 16:4
- Was God asking Abraham to sin?
 - “Teleological suspension of the ethical”
- New Testament insight in Hebrews 11:17-19

Testing Job

- Job 1:12 *Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.*
- Man has three enemies – the world, the flesh, and the devil
- The core difference between God and our enemies
 - God knows what is best for us, and freely gives it us
 - See 1:17
 - Our enemies also know what is best for us, and do all that is within their power to distract us from it
 - See Matthew 13:19-23

What's going on, here?

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

- How is the person asking this question doing in regards to trials and testing?
- Is this an issue of faith, or is it an issue of understanding?
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 – God certainly knows where we are in our spiritual growth
- What is God's relationship with evil?
 - Proposition 1: He never sins because His will is perfect, and He never chooses to sin.
 - Proposition 2: God is the ultimate standard of good and evil – everything outside of Him is sin