

Women's Bible Study

May 2, 2018

James 1:13-19

Temptations

James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

"The verb tempted refers to temptations that test one's moral strength to resist sin. God cannot be tempted because God in his very nature is holy, there is nothing in him for sin to appeal to nor does he tempt anyone." (NIV Bible Notes) "Satan temps us in order to make us fall. God tests us in order to confirm our faith or prove our commitment. Just as how we face trials and respond to them in James 1: 2-12 was seen as a test of genuine faith so how we deal with temptation is also a test of genuine faith." (John MacArthur's sermon on Who's Fault is Our Temptation)

Proverbs 19:3 A person's own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the Lord.

Was Jesus ever tempted?

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God, he said,

throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord our God to the test.’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said, “Away from me Satan! ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’

“The significance of Jesus’ temptations, especially because they occurred at the outset of his public ministry, seems best understood in terms of the kind of Messiah he was to be. He would not accomplish his mission by using his supernatural power for his own needs, by using his power to win a large following by miracles or magic or by compromising with Satan. Although Jesus was the Son of God, he defeated Satan by using a weapon that everyone has at his or her disposal: the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. He met all three temptations with Scriptural truth.” (NIV Bible Notes)

“Do you think only of Christ’s temptations and fail to think of his victory? See yourself as tempted in him, and see yourself as victorious in him. He could have kept the devil from himself; but if he were not tempted he could not teach you how to triumph over temptation.” (Augustine of Hippo- Overcoming Temptation in Christ, AD 354-430)

James 1:14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

“All of us can give testimony to the truthfulness of that statement. Everyone is tempted. Temptation is the common

experience of every human being, Christian or non-Christian.” (John MacArthur’s sermon on Who’s Fault is Our Temptation)

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

“How we deal with temptation is a mark of the genuineness of our faith. You must stand up under it. Through God’s enablement to resist the temptation to sin.” (NIV Bible Notes)

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

James 1:15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:16 Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived:

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

“God is the Creator of the heavenly bodies, which give light to the earth, but, unlike them, he does not change.” (NIV Bible Notes)

James 1: 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

What is meant by “firstfruits?”

“Not a reference to creation but regeneration. Just as the first sheaf of the harvest was an indication that the whole harvest would eventually follow, so the early Christians were an indication that a great number of people would eventually be born again.” (NIV Bible Notes)

John 3: 3-8 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying. You must be born again. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“The Holy Spirit is sovereign. He works as he pleases in his renewal of the human heart.” (NIV Bible Notes)

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

What can we do to avoid temptation?

Prayer, the study of God’s word and a disciplined mind.