

FaithWorks

Week 2: Against Temptation

Weekly Summary: Temptation is deceptive. It turns something designed to kill you into something that looks good and pleasing! A living and active faith sees through the lie and gives glory to God by obeying him.

❖ **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;

❖ **James 1:14** – but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

➤ Temptation works because you have an appetite for _____.

❖ **James 1:15-16** – Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

➤ Temptation's goal is to _____ you, _____ you, and _____ you.



❖ **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.

❖ **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.

➤ Faith works against temptation through the word of _____.

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- ❖ **Psalm 32:5** – Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- ❖ **James 5:16** – Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
- ❖ **Galatians 6:12** – Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- ❖ **1 Corinthians 10:13b** – 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.
- ❖ **Psalm 34:18** – The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- ❖ **Ephesians 6:10-12** – Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Digging Deeper

1. In James 1:13, he is probably citing an excuse some Christians were using to indulge their sinful desires. What are some of the excuses we use to indulge ours?
2. Read the original temptation account in Genesis 3:1-7. How does this reinforce today's message?
3. Even when we know certain temptations are lying to us, sometimes we indulge them anyway. Why do you think that is? Why is that especially dangerous ground for Christians to find themselves in?
4. Read Proverbs 7:21-27. How do these verses add to some of the key points we learned in the sermon?
5. James 1:15 uses birthing language to speak of the goal of temptation. Why is that imagery so practical and fitting?
6. Which of the C.A.R.P. steps seems most difficult? Why? Would you add any steps not mentioned in today's message?
7. Evaluate: “Struggling with sin is actually evidence that faith is alive—not dead.”
8. **Homework:** Read James 1:19-25 to start thinking ahead to next week's *FaithWorks* message.
9. **Challenge:** Keep track of your temptations in a notebook. See what trends and triggers you can discover about yourself in it.