

Enduring Temptation

Introduction

1. The book of James (who is thought to be one of the brothers of Jesus) is often regarded as one of the most practical books of the New Testament.
2. This morning I want us to examine the first chapter of James.
3. The question that I want to answer for us this morning, based on this chapter, is: “How can I endure temptation?”

By Counting It All Joy

James 1:1-12

1. **The key verse is verse 12:** “Blessed is the man who endures temptation.”
 - A. **Endure:** bear, survive, overcome, deal with
 - B. **Blessed:** acquires the benefits of temptation
2. **The definition of and two usual aspects of "temptation."**
 - A. **Definition:** any trial, problem, difficulty – vs 2-3
 - 1) **Examples of Job (Job 1), and Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)**
 - 2) **Can be channeled to positive ends (vs 2-3)**
 - B. **As used and manipulated by Satan (vs 14-15)**
 - 1) **An enticement to sin**
 - 2) **Ultimate end = death!**
 - 3) **It is NEVER used by God in this way!**
3. **Other key factors to help us “endure”/ “overcome” temptation:**
 - A. **Having a basic knowledge and understanding of these two aspects (vs 2-4)**
 - B. **The wisdom to do the right things while “under trial” (vs 5)**
 - C. **Having complete faith and trust in God while trials are taking place (vs 6-7)**
 - D. **Being content and humble in our life with the Lord (vs 9-11)**

By Not Blaming God

James 1:13-20

- 1. The key verse is verse 16: “Do not be deceived....”**
 - A. Who is it that is trying to deceive? It is Satan!**
 - 1) Our carnal senses and weaknesses**
 - B. This is all instigated by Satan.**
 - 2) When in trials, some may be heard to say, “Why is God doing this to me...?”**
- 2. “Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God.”**
 - A. Every good and perfect gift comes from God (vs 17-19)**
 - B. God cannot be tempted with evil, nor does He tempt anyone (vs 13)**

By Laying Aside All Filthiness and Wickedness

James 1:21-27

1. **The key verse is verse 21:** “Therefore, lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness...”
 - A. **This is certainly up to us individually.**
 - B. **Every person must accept the responsibility for:**
 - 1) **Sinning, succumbing to temptation to the point of sin.**
 - 2) **Or ----- winning the battle by – thru temptation “laying aside sin.”**
 - 3) **We either:**
 - a) **Grow and mature as a result of temptations (vs 2-3) or,**
 - b) **We allow it to give birth to sin (vs 13-14)**
2. **We lay aside all filthiness by:**
 - A. **Receiving with meekness the implanted word (vs 21)**
 - B. **Being “doers of the word and not hearers only” (vs 22-27)**
 - C. **Bridling our tongue (vs 13,19,26)**
 - D. **Visiting and comforting orphans and widows (vs 27)**
 - E. **Keeping oneself unspotted from the world (vs 14-16,27)**

Conclusion

- 1. God wants His children to learn to “endure” temptations.**
 - A. We need to allow God to work in us to our “perfection.”**
- 2. We can't allow temptation to be an occasion for sin.**
- 3. God knows how we are tempted and provides the keys for overcoming and for channeling these trials for a stronger Christian life.**
- 4. Believe and trust His word.**
 - A. Be a doer and not a hearer only!**

