

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:13-15 (NIV)

Dragged Away And Enticed

Well, I certainly don't want that. **What don't you want?** I don't want to be dragged away and enticed by evil desire. **That's good. What are you going to do about that? How will you protect yourself against being dragged away and enticed by evil desire?** I thought you were the one that did all the protecting. **Nice try. No, you have a role in your own protection.** Let me think about that. **Go ahead, think.** Well, I do know when, where and how I am most likely to be tempted. I could make a firm decision to stay away from those times, places and circumstances that are most likely to tempt me. **That is a good start. What else?** I also know that there are things that feed temptation and evil desires to grow in me. I could also make a firm decision to eliminate anything from my life that feeds evil desire, that will try to drag me away and entice me to sin. **That is very good as well. What else?** I could make a commitment to turn and run from temptation when it first approaches me. **Why would that be very good?** Well, I have learned that temptation is a process. **Yes, it is.** It starts in the heart and mind and then continues on to action. **Yes, it does.** Once it is fully conceived it leads to death. I have had enough of that death. I want no more of that peace and joy destroying process to continue in my life. **That's good.** Turning and running from temptation stops that process. **Yes, it does. You have thought carefully about your role in resisting temptation. Would you like to learn how I will protect you from temptation?** Yes, I would, that would be great.

How did I resist temptation? What helped me to resist temptation? You used God's word to stand against temptation and resist evil. **Yes, I did. The Holy Spirit will take God's word and use it like a sword in your life. The Holy Spirit will use God's word to fight in you, with you, for you and through you. The Holy Spirit will use God's word to change your heart, transform your mind and protect your life. The Holy Spirit will use God's word to help you stand against temptation and resist evil desires. How does that sound?** That sounds great. **Yes, it is.**

Guess what. I have another role to play in my own protection? **Yes, you do. What is that role? I must come to meet with you in your word.** I must live in an intimate relationship with you. I must let your word dwell in me richly. Then my earthly and evil desires will be replaced by heavenly desires that come from you. Then I will not be dragged away and enticed by earthly and evil desires that are a part of this world. **That true. Will you allow my word to dwell in your richly? Will you live in an intimate relationship with me? Will you allow me to give you desires that come from me?** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, at one time my thoughts and desires were earthly, unspiritual and even evil. I was easily dragged away, enticed and tempted. Not any longer. Thank you for using your word to change my heart, transform my mind and make me able to resist temptation. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Evil Desire*

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

NIV James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Own Desire*

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

ESV James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Own Desires*

And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

NLT James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Own Desires*

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.

NKJV James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Own Desire*

No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

NRSV James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Comes From Us*

Don't let anyone under pressure to give in to evil say, "God is trying to trip me up." God is impervious to evil, and puts evil in no one's way. The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.

MSG James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Evil Desire*

Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by [what is] evil and He Himself tempts no one. But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed *and* baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions). Then the evil desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully matured, brings forth death.

AMP James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Evil Thoughts*

And remember, when someone wants to do wrong it is never God who is tempting him, for God never wants to do wrong and never tempts anyone else to do it. Temptation is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes. These evil thoughts lead to evil actions and afterwards to the death penalty from God.

TLB James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Own Lust*

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

NASB James 1:13-15

Becoming Like Christ *Evil Desire*

When people are tempted, they should not say, "God is tempting me." Evil cannot tempt God, and God himself does not tempt anyone. But people are tempted when their own evil desire leads them away and traps them. This desire leads to sin, and then the sin grows and brings death.

NCV James 1:13-15

Evil Desire

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – James 1:13-15

In Context: *Read James 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

When tempted, | no one | should say, | "God is | tempting me." | For God | cannot | be tempted | by evil, | nor does | he tempt anyone; | but | each one | is tempted | when, | by his | own evil desire, | he is | dragged away | and | enticed. | Then, | after desire | has conceived, | it gives birth | to sin; | and sin, | when | it is | full-grown, | gives birth t| o death. James 1:13-15 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, at one time my thoughts and desires were earthly, unspiritual and even evil. I was easily dragged away, enticed and tempted. Not any longer. Thank you for using your word to change my heart, transform my mind and make me able to resist temptation. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When, where and how are you most likely to be dragged away and enticed by earthly and evil desires?

How are you distancing yourself from times, places and circumstances that might entice you to sin?

How did Jesus Christ rely on God’s word to help Him to stand against temptation?

When have you, like Christ, been able to rely on God’s word to help you to stand against temptation?

How are you allowing God’s word to change your heart, and transform your mind so you can resist temptation?

Why is turning and running from temptation the best possible immediate action you can take?

How is living in a prayerful intimate relationship with God freeing you from earthly and evil desires?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Keep your heart and mind and life focused on heavenly versus earthly and evil desires.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that God’s word will change your heart, transform your mind and give new, heavenly desires.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord is changing your desires from earthly and evil to heavenly.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow God to use His word to change the desires of your heart and mind.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will allow you to use your word to change the desires of my heart and mind.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to use your word to change the desires of my heart and mind?
