

EXEGESIS OF JAMES (sermon 2)

James 1:12-27 (NIV)

[12] Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

[13] When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; [14] but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. [15] Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

[16] Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. [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. [18] He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

[19] My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, [20] because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

[21] Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

[22] Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. [23] Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror [24] and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [25] But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

[26] Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. [27] Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Book of James Information

- James was written by the brother of Jesus who was the co-leader of the Jerusalem church
 - o James the disciple was the first martyr (Herod killed by the sword in 44 A.D.)
- The book was written early – in ~ AD 45 (about 12 years after Jesus Crucifixion)
- It was written to from the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem (Home office) to Jewish believers all over the world

The purpose of Trials and Consequences of Sin

[12] **Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial** because, **having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life** that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

- WHAT IS THE REASON FOR TRIALS?
 - o TESTING OF OUR FAITH
 - “Resistance workout” – To make us spiritually strong
- What does it mean to “Persevere under trial”
 - o Perseverance = “Doing what God called you to do until He directs you to do something else”

- Illustration: A worker who has been assigned to dig a pit – who does not give up even though they are left alone, they are tired of doing it and others are filling in the pit. (Know that the foreman will be coming back!)
 - Success is not based on believing or “standing” ... Perseverance is based on CONTINUING THE WORK that you were given to do, no matter how long or what comes against you...
 - This is different than Endurance
 - Endurance literally means “To hold up, to remain standing”
 - Illustration: Holding on, standing up on the deck of a ship in the midst of a terrible storm
 - Success is not based on working... Success is based on standing... not moving from where you have been placed
- The reward of “persevering under trial”
 - A crown of life = Honor and Blessing from the Lord...
 - The crown of life comes from tribulation & testing...
 - Rev 2:10 (NKJV) Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you **the crown of life.**
 - GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO OBEY
 - God rewards PERSEVERENCE with the CROWN OF LIFE
 - What do we do with THE CROWN OF LIFE
 - Rev 4:4-11 (NIV) Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. **They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.**.... [9] Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, [10] the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. **They lay their crowns before the throne and say:** [11] **"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."**

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For **God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;** [14] but **each person is tempted** when they are **dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.** [15] Then, **after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**

Source of Testing

- EVERYONE IS TEMPTED
 - Who is the TEMPTER (not God)
 - Satan is the source of Temptation
 - Mat. 4:3 = Tempter came to Jesus while in the wilderness for 40 days
 - I Thess 3:5 = Paul expresses concern that believers might have given in to the temptor
 - God allows the enemy to TEMPT US...
 - God uses the enemy to strengthen us...
 - If we fail, he redeems us
 - We learn to Trust Him
 - The enemy’s tactic = “to cast doubt on the benefit of obedience” (Temptation definition)

- Gen 3:1-5 “Did God really say that you would die... You will not die, in fact, you will become like Gods if you eat it..”
- THE RESULT OF TEMPTATION IS ONE OF TWO WHEN IT COMES TO OBEDIENCE
 - **We are Tested by God**
 - Exo 20:18-21 (NIV) When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance [19] and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." [20] Moses said to the people, "**Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.**" [21] The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.
 - The Temptor was causing them to FEAR
 - **We put God to the test**
 - Psa 78:40-42 (NIV) How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the wasteland! [41] **Again and again they put God to the test;** they vexed the Holy One of Israel. [42] They did not remember his power— the day he redeemed them from the oppressor

- **WHAT CAUSES SIN?**

- Is it the Devil’s fault that you sin...

FOUR STEPS TO SIN

1. IT BEGINS WITH THE CULTIVATION OF DESIRE... The passion of our hearts

- DESIRE IS THE WHERE SIN GERMINATES
 - We must cultivate a passion for God over a passion for other things
 - If we give our attention & affection to other things... (cultivate a passion for the world)
 - Our desire for God and love for others grows cold
 - Our Spirit becomes dull – we don’t see the spiritual world
 - We become “Carnal” = fleshly (led around by our flesh and attracted to the world)
 - Rom 8:5-8 (NIV) Those who **live according to the flesh** have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who **live in accordance with the Spirit** have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] **The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.** [7] **The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God;** it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] **Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.**
 - The carnal mind = hostile to god, cannot submit to God

2. CONTINUES WHEN DESIRES CONCEIVE

- THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH CONCEIVE THE DECISION/DISPOSITION TO SIN
 - A moment in time= when we are “dragged away by personal desires”
 - We have disempowered the Spirit
 - We have empowered the flesh... given place to desires
 - Given our hearts to Comfort, leisure, sexual pleasure, materialism
 - The capacity to sin takes place in our hearts long before we actually sin

3. THEN SINS ARE COMMITTED = Riches + fleshly desires = Sin

- Faith is putting hope in God
 - Sin is putting hope in the flesh
- SIN CAUSES

- SEPERATION FROM GOD
 - “Without Holiness, no one will see the Lord” Heb. 12”14
- HARM TO THE BODY AND MIND
 - Smoking = lung disease
 - Porn = improper view and destruction of relationship with opposite sex
- BROKENNESS AND SEPRATION FROM OTHERS
 - Procrastination – loss of jobs, relationships
- It allows the enemy access to our lives
- Gal 5:19-21 (NIV) The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21] and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

4. RESULTS IN DEATH

- Death/ Separation from the life, purposes and power of God
 - Not able to hear God, know what He is doing
- Death/ Separation from what God created us to be
 - Aimless life, no guidance
- Death/ Separation from the relationship we have with others
 - We can’t be selfless,,, we love others for what they can do
- ETERNAL DEATH
 - The Bible is clear about the existence of Hell...
 - We must understand that this is real
 - Hell was never created for people
 - We can choose to go there
 - God does not send us...

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