Walk the Talk #2 Pastor Kelvin Kauffeldt

*The Epistle of James* January 19, 2025

**Walk the Talk**

*-Don’t Fall for the Bait-*

James 1:13-18

As followers of Jesus Christ, it is inevitable that along with trials, we will also face temptations of many kinds. In order to *Walk the Talk* in the midst of battling temptations, we need to remember some specific truths so that we *“Don’t Fall for the Bait.”*

**Three lures to resist when battling temptations:**

**1. The lure of thinking that God is the source of my temptations** (vs. 13)

- During trials, guard against deceitful temptations that lure you into believing lies

- Handling trials and testing from a biblical perspective on the outside, will help to prevent temptations on the inside

- God is perfectly sinless, therefore He is incapable of enticing others to sin (Hab. 1:13a; Isa. 6:3;
1 Pt. 1:16)

*Don’t fall for the bait…when tempted, don’t say, “God is tempting me.”*

**2. The lure of thinking that temptation and sin just happen without rhyme or reason** (vs. 14-15)

- Temptation happens when we allow ourselves to be dragged away by our own evil desire and enticed (Rom. 8:5)

- Sin happens when we engage our desire and bring temptation to life (Rom. 6:8-14)

- Sin left unchecked (unconfessed and not repented of) will grow and lead to tragic outcomes
(Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 11:30-31; Rev. 20:15)

*Don’t fall for the bait…temptation and sin don’t just happen. Be alert, recognize the natural pathway of temptation which leads to sin and death, and RUN AWAY! (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 12:1-2a)*

**3. The lure of thinking that maybe God is not as good as I believed** (vs. 16-18)

- It will be very difficult to *Walk the Talk* if you doubt the validity of God’s goodness (cf. James 1:6-8)

- God’s goodness is unchanging (vs. 17), undeserved (vs. 18a), and unending (vs. 18b) (Eph. 1:3-8a,

2:8-10)

- What God has done, by His grace and goodness in our lives, is only a preview of what is to come
(Rev. 7:9-12; Rev. 21:1-4)

*Don’t fall for the bait…“for the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”*

**Don’t believe the lies! Don’t fall for the bait!**

**When battling temptation, resist, run, turn to Jesus, and meditate on His goodness to you!**