

September 27, 2026



James | Faith That Works - Week 2

“Lives Marked by Repentance”

James 1:13-15 (ESV)

“¹³ 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. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

- God uses trials for good. Satan tempts us for evil.
- In the midst of a trial, what do I desire to run to?
- Desires left unchecked lead to sin. Sin left unchecked will trap and enslave you.

Genesis 3:4, Hebrews 12:1

- Compromise always comes at a cost.
- Life is too short, the gospel is too good, and the stakes are too high to stay comfortable with unrepentant sin.

So how do we walk in victory over temptation?

⇒ **We live lives marked by repentance.**

1. A life marked by repentance regularly refocuses away from sinful desires and toward God.

James 1:16-18 (ESV)

“¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

- When the temptation to sin is strong, remember Jesus is better and ask for help.

2. A life marked by repentance loves God and obeys His Word.

James 1:22 (ESV)

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

John 14:15 (ESV)

James 1:23-25 (ESV)

“²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Matthew 7:24-27 (ESV)

3. A life marked by repentance loves and serves others.

James 1:26-27 (ESV)

“²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

Repentance is not accepting defeat; it’s taking hold of a victory that is ours in Christ!

Romans 3:23-24 (ESV)

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Questions to guide reflection and prayer:

- What sin have I stopped fighting?
- Where have I been lured, enticed, or trapped?
- What has God clearly said that I am hearing but not doing?
- What would repentance look like today?