



“Temptations” James 1:9-18

Aron Lee Ralston Story (Matt5:29-30). Heaven and hell are at stake in what you do in dealing with temptation and sin. The more you experience the lifegiving joy of knowing Christ Jesus the more you will take drastic measures in dealing with any temptation and sin that will keep you from Him.

All you must do is watch the nightly news and you will be confronted repeatedly with the question: “Why is there so much evil in this world?” James answers that question by teaching us about the nature of temptation and sin.

1) Every Trial brings with it a Temptation. vv9-14 (Matt6:13, 26:41; 1Cor10:12-13) Trials are external pressures and temptations are internal pressures.

- God tests us, but He never tempts us, temptation comes from the inside of us. vv13-14
- There is a temptation in every adversity and prosperity. vv9-11
- The temptation in adversity is self-pity and in prosperity it is self-sufficiency.

2) Every Temptation has a consistent pattern: vv14-15 (Gen3:1-6; Eph4:22-24)

- Desire v14c “by his own desire.” (Gr. epithymia) Over-desire
- Deception v14b “when he is lured and enticed”
- Daydream v15a “Then desire when it has conceived” (Matt5:21-22, 27-28, 6:21)
- Disobedience v15b “gives birth to sin”
- Death v15c “and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death”

3) Every Temptation Can Be Overcome. Vv16-18 (Matt4:4,7,10; Gen39:6-20)

- Created things were never designed to satisfy us but are gifts from and pointers to the One who can. Vv16-17
- When we are born again we are not only set free from the penalty, but also the power of sin. The power of sin’s promise is broken by the power of God’s. v18; Rom8:1-4

“The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one.”-Thomas Chalmers

“I know of no other way to triumph over sin long-term than...to gain a distaste for it because of a superior satisfaction in God.” – John Piper

Growing Notes:

- 1) What were your thoughts and feelings about the Aron Lee Ralston story (The young man who amputated his right forearm to save his own life in a canyoneering accident)? How is this a great analogy of what our attitude should be in dealing with temptation and sin (Matthew 5:29-30)?
- 2) Read James 1:9-18. Where does temptation come from (vv13-14)? What is the temptation in adversity and prosperity? Which one is most difficult for you? Every trial brings with it a temptation! How can we be ready (Matt6:13, 26:41; 1Cor10:12-13)?
- 3) What is the consistent pattern in every temptation? At what level should you battle temptation? Sin is not simply doing bad things, it is putting good things in the place of God. Explain. What is the lie behind all temptation (Gen3:1-6)? How do you know when desire has been conceived in your heart (Matt5:21-22, 27-28, 6:21)? People fall in private, long before they fall in public. Explain.
- 4) How did Jesus overcome temptation (Matt4:4,7,10)? What were created things designed for (vv16-17)? What are we set free from when we are born again (Rom8:1-4)? The power of sin’s promise is broken by the power of God’s (see quotes at end of sermon/Gen39:6-20). Explain. What is God speaking to you through this study? Pray.