

## “Testing & Tempting”

James 1:13-15

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Since God uses trials to mature His people, is He responsible for the temptations and sins that occur during those trials?

1. God is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of temptation (v. 13)

- a) God \_\_\_\_\_ believers for their spiritual benefit.  
He does not \_\_\_\_\_ believers for their spiritual harm.
- b) God faithfully provides an \_\_\_\_\_ from sin.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** – No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2. Temptation \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts (v. 14-15)

- a) We are enticed to sin by our own \_\_\_\_\_.

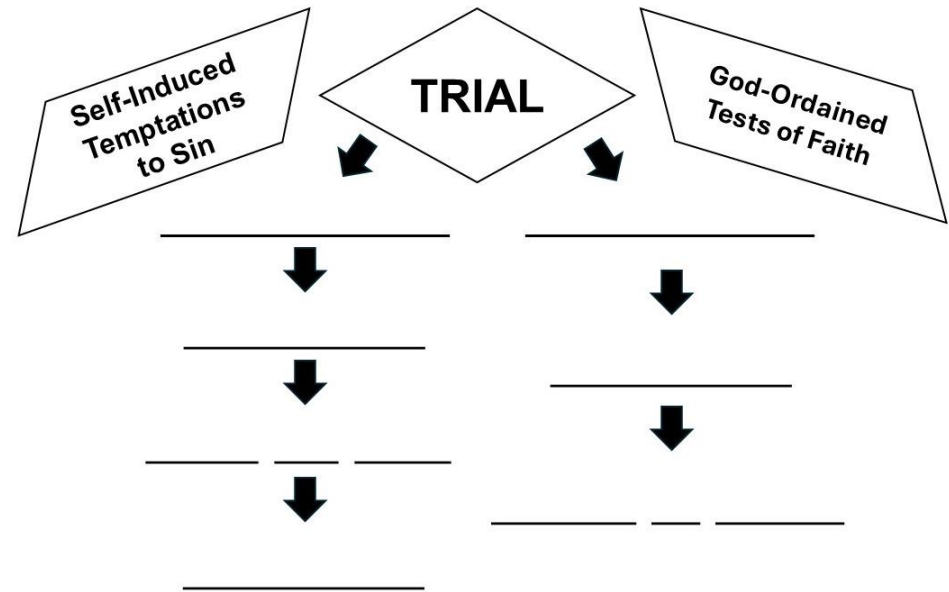
**Mark 7:15, 21-23** – “There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him...”

- b) We are responsible for our \_\_\_\_\_ to trials.

**Genesis 3:6, 12-13** – So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate... The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

3. Fighting temptation

- a) Take it \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ on God
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Call a \_\_\_\_\_



### Discussion Questions

- Many passages of Scripture and the lives of many biblical characters reveal that God, in His providence, ordains that His people should face trials. Look up several passages and/or characters from the list below and discuss the circumstances described. Using James 1:2-12, what is God’s purpose for His people in these trials?  

John 6:5-6; 1 Peter 4:12-16; Hebrews 11:17-19; 2 Timothy 3:11-12; Romans 8:16-39; Joseph; Job; Paul
- If God ordains that His people will face trials, what then is James saying in 1:13 that God *does* not do?
- Describe temptation the way James does in 1:14. Next, if the desire is allowed to continue, James describes it as being *conceived* in 1:15. What does it mean for a desire to conceive?
- Name some specific trials that you have experienced, and consider the sins that you were tempted to fall into because of those trials.
- Discuss the applications of how to fight temptation. How do you fight temptation? Do you take it seriously enough? What other ways of fighting temptation have been helpful for you?