



Perfecting Faith: The Book of James

Keeping the Faith When Tempted

The Four Stages of Temptation and Sin

James 1:13-18

1. Drawing Stage James 1:14

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away...”

- Drawn: Carried away; to draw out; lure from safety
- Thinking is not sin—but when the mind ‘lingers’ it can be drawn away into sin.
- **Step of Faith:** Be drawn to God rather than sin James 4:7-8

2. Deception Stage James 1:14; Hebrews 2:1

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.” (See also 1 John 2:16)

- Greek deleazo (delude) to bait or entrap
- Something is always enticing us; seeking to devour us.
- **Step of Faith:** Look for the hook and never nibble at the bait.

Hebrews 2:1 “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”

Like a boat tied to a dock that slips away a little more each day with the tide. By faith and the Word, strengthen your mooring lines.

3. Disobedient Stage James 1:15

“Then, when desire [lust] has conceived, it gives birth to sin...”

- I have now done the deed and sin is present.
- **Step of Faith:** *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9*

The verse does NOT say:

If we say I am sorry...

If we explain our sins...

If we offer excuses...

4. Discipline Stage James 1:15; 16-18

“...and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.”

- Death can be physical, spiritual, and eternally spiritual.
- The consequences of my sin overtakes me.
- **Step of Faith:** *“Do not be deceived...” James 1:16*

Pursue the solution:

God is good and gives us only good gifts!

By faith in Christ we are “a kind of first fruits.”

So live in His goodness and fruitfulness

Let No One Say...

James 1:13; Gen 3:8-13

James says, “Let no one say...” because that is what they were saying—looking for someone else to blame.

Gen 3:8-13 reveals that when we are faced with temptation and failure we are prone to:

1. Hide, deny, cover it up :8

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

2. Lie about it :9-11

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

3. Blame the easiest target :12

Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

4. Rationalize to lessen our responsibility :13

And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Read: Colossians 3:1-5