

Date: September 24, 2023  
Series Title: Faith Works  
Message Title: Overcoming Temptation  
Text: James 1:13-18

### **James 1:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> 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.

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

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

## **TEMPTATION DOES NOT COME FROM GOD**

### **God tempts no one**

#### **James 1:13**

*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.*

Test / tempt – same word as we dealt with last week.

- Affliction, trial, temptation
- To prove what is in you

God is doing this? ...No!

- Isa. 6 – declares that God is Thrice Holy – the perfection of all that is holy.
- Revelation states that no evil will enter His presence.

### **1 John 1:5**

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

- God does not have a bag of evil to throw at us.
  - There is no evil in God.
  - He is not enticed by evil things; they have no place in His presence.
- He Himself does not tempt anyone.

### **God gives good gifts**

#### **James 1:17**

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...*

- God gives good gifts.
- God gives perfect gifts.
  - The Gift of creation
  - The Gift of His promises
  - The Gift of His son

- The Gift of His Spirit
- The Gift of salvation
- The Gift of victory from death
- The Gift of an eternal destiny

### **God Does not Change**

#### **James 1:18**

*...with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

- Here is no variation.
  - There is no shadow due to change.
  - While we have good days and bad days – He is constant.
  - He is the Only Being who has no variation or vacillation.
- Verses
  - Hebrews says he is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
  - Revelation says he is “the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, which was and is and is to come.”
  - Malachi 3 says, “I am the Lord and I do not change.”
- There is no light that can shine on him to create shadows.

**Revelation 21:23** - *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

- He is the Light

### **TEMPTATION IS ROOTED IN OUR DESIRES**

#### **James 1:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.* <sup>15</sup> *Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

#### **Our desires lure and entice us.**

- Fishing lure – the right bait to catch the fish
  - What are they biting on?
  - Our desires know exactly what will ensnare us.
- Displayed to entice
  - Menus and descriptions
    - Picture will draw you in.
    - Descriptions will draw you in.
- What lies inside

#### **Galatians 5:17**

*For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

- Our desire is inside of us and has been developed.
- What is in our heart and mind

- Out of our heart come evil thoughts.

**Luke 6:45** - *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*

### **Our desires conceived brings forth sin**

- Desires conceived
- Conceived - to collect, to take, by implication to take part with, to conceive
  - Usage: I seize, apprehend, assist, conceive, become pregnant.
  - Collect the desires into a task, a deed, a word... to give it form.
  - To fertilize it that it may begin growth
    - Multiplying the cells into form – The form is sin.

### **Our sin leads to death**

- Sin fully grown
- The desire for sin is a curse and we are all under it
- **Gen. 3:3** - *but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'*

### **Our desires must change**

## **TEMPTATION CAN BE OVERCOME IN OUR IDENTITY**

### **God's help in the midst of temptation**

#### **James 1:18**

*Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

### **God has a will regarding you and me.**

- By His own will
  - He is not passive.
  - He has intent.
  - He is thinking of you and me.
- The will of the Creator.

#### **Ephesians 2:10**

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

### **God brings us the Word of Truth**

- There is a truth.
  - His truth
    - 2 Tim 2 – The Word of Truth
    - Isa. 65 – The God of truth
    - Titus 1:2 – He cannot lie
  - The truth
- What is that truth?

- His Word – the Scriptures are true
- His Son – the Messiah is Truth
  - Jesus said to Pilate – I am the Truth.
- His desire for us is true

### **John 3:17**

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

### **God desires, by the Word of Truth, to bring us forth.**

- Bring us out of something
  - Lazarus
    - “Lazarus, come forth!”
    - Come out of the tomb.
    - Come into life.
  - Israel
    - Israel – “Let my people go!”
    - Come out of Egypt.
    - Come into promise.
  - Us
    - Out of death
    - Out of bondage
    - Out of sin
- Bring us towards something
  - Life
    - Jesus – John 10:10 - “I came to bring life ... abundantly.”
    - Proverbs 8:35 - *For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord.*
  - Victory
    - The Psalms declare – “... he hath done marvelous things: His right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.” (Ps. 98:1)
    - Over death – Isa. 25:8 - He will swallow up death in victory.
    - Over the flesh –
      - Rom 8 – setting our mind on the Spirit or the flesh
      - We are not of the flesh but of the Spirit, and that Spirit dwells in us.

### **Romans 8:12-14**

*<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

### **God makes us a firstfruits of his creatures**

### **James 1:18**

*...that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

- Firstfruits: Leviticus –
  - According to the Levitical ceremonial law, the first sheaf of the new crop, accompanied with sacrifice, was presented in the Temple on the day after the Passover Sabbath.
  - No part of the harvest was permitted to be used for food until after this acknowledgment, that all had come from God and belonged to Him.
  - A similar law applied to the first-born of men and of cattle. Both were regarded as in a special sense consecrated to and belonging to God.
- Firstfruits applied to Jesus.
  - He is ‘become the firstfruits of them that slept’ (1Cor 15:20).
    - And it was no mere accidental coincidence that, in this character, He rose from the dead on the day on which, according to the law, the sheaf was to be presented in the Temple.
  - He makes men ‘the many brethren,’ of whom He is ‘the first-born’; and He, by the overflowing power of His life, raises from the dead the whole harvest of which He is the firstfruits.
- We are firstfruits.
  - The phrase is further transferred in the New Testament to Christian people. They are the ‘firstfruits unto God and the Lamb.’ (Rev 14:4)
- As Firstfruits we are consecrated to God.
- As Firstfruits we are evidence and witnesses of a greater harvest.
- As Firstfruits we are influences and helpers in the Harvest.

### **CHALLENGE**

Walking in your identity in Christ will change the desires that beset you