

What Is Intended Effect of Temptation?

James 1:12-15

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12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. **15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Meaning of Temptation

- In noun form, same Greek word (*peirasmon*) is used in different ways:
 - Test or trial in sense of the occasion causing examination
 - **Enticement to sin**
 - Testing of God done by man
- In verb form of word (*peirazo*), it is used in same ways both actively and passively
- We will be focused on the use of the word that regards enticement & enticing to sin
- Things to remember about temptation...
 - Temptation is not sin in itself
 - Jesus was tempted, but without sin (*Heb. 4:15*)
 - Lustful plan not same as temptation (*Matt. 5:27-28*)
 - Yielding to temptation is sin

Origin of Temptation to Sin

- Enticements to evil come from:
 - Satan (*Matt. 4:1; 1 Thess. 3:5; 1 Pet 5:8*)
 - Satan is origin of all evil & actively seeks to destroy us
 - Satan is not deterred by our previous good (*Job 1:8-11*)
 - Self (*Jas. 1:14; Eph. 2:1-3; Eph.4:22-24*)
 - Appeal of temptation is result of our desire for it
 - Cannot be overcome by any temptation without our desire being of greater weight than our love for Lord
 - Both are involved in every case of temptation
 - Other people also bring temptations (*2 Pet. 2:1f*)
- This is why the way of escape comes with IT

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Intended Effect of Temptation

- Temptation to do wrong is also opportunity to do right
 - **1 Cor. 10:6-13** May escape sin by opposite action of Israel
 - **2 Peter 2:9** Lord knows how to deliver godly out of it
 - **James 1:2-4** Faith produces patience & makes us perfect
 - **Heb. 2:18** Learn right action by following Jesus' example
 - **Rev. 3:8-11** Lord knows if we obey His will & rewards
- God intends process to purify us & end in victory
 - **1 Cor. 9:24-25** Spiritual struggle is for imperishable crown
 - **2 Tim. 4:7-8** Crown for those who have fought & finished
- Done only if we respond to temptation correctly
 - **2 Tim. 2:22** Flee youthful lust, but pursue righteousness
 - **James 4:7-8** Submit to God **&** Resist the devil
 - **Phil. 4:8** Meditate on things of truth and purity
 - **Rom. 6:12-14** Present self to God; let sin have no dominion