

What Is the Origin 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

Temptation to Sin Does Not Come from...

- **God**

- *James 1:13* Not tempted by sin & does not tempt
- *Isaiah 6:1-3* God absolute in holiness (*Rev. 4:8*)
- *Hebrews 6:18* Impossible for God to lie (*Titus 1:2*)

- **A desire for man to be lost**

- *2 Peter 3:9* Not willing that any should perish...
- *John 3:16* God's love provided for salvation
- *1 Jn. 2:1-2* Christ died for all (*Heb. 2:9; 1 Tim. 2:3-6*)

- Calvinism wrongly teaches inherent sinful nature, thus blaming origin on God (*Heb. 12:9* → *Eccl. 7:29*)

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