

James #2: Faith When I Don't Want to Do the Right Thing

If we don't learn to deal with temptation, it will lead to major problems in life. But God promises to help us overcome temptation by his strength.

- We face enticing, captivating temptations every day of the week.
- If we give in, we can do great harm to ourselves and those around us..

Temptation comes from our own evil desires. (Jas 1:13-14)

- God will never entice us to do something wrong..
- **James 1:13** And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. **14** Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.
- Satan will tempt us, but we must take account of our own evil desires.

Temptation follows a natural progression to sin. (Jas 1:15)

- **James 1:15** These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.
- Giving in to temptation always leads to sinful actions.
- The natural outcome of sin is one or another form of death.
 - Death of a relationship, of trust, of hope, of opportunity, etc.

We can overcome temptation through God. (Jas 1:16-17)

- We will never be free from temptation in this life.
 - But we can learn to use God's resources to overcome it.
- **James 1:16** So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.
- We place our hope in God's basic goodness, which leads to his care:
 - **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.
 - We have an assurance that no temptation will be too great.
- How to overcome temptation: Ask God for help.
- **James 4:7** So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come close to God, and God will come close to you....
- How to overcome temptation: Focus on the big picture.
 - Consider how giving in will affect your health, finances, relationships, God's plans for you, and more.
- How to overcome temptation: Flee the temptation.
- **1 Timothy 6:11** But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
 - Don't allow yourself to proceed toward areas of weakness.

- Replace temptation with positive options.