

# DERAILED: Part 5: Am I Tempted?

## ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. If you could listen to only one song for the rest of your life, what would it be?
2. If you could go back in time, what is one thing you would change?

## WORD

The concept of trials, testing and temptation is expressed in both Old and New Testament, meaning everyone will experience trials, testing and temptation no one is exempted. James gives us a strategy for overcoming the deadly lure of temptation.

### **James 1:13-18 (NIV84)**

*13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

*16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the sword of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.*

Tempted is the same Greek word that is translated trial or test but clearly it has two different senses. God tests or tries believers' faith, but He does not tempt anyone into sin. God *tests* that he might determine and sharpen true character, with no focus on making the believer fail. An example to this, God tested Abraham (Genesis 22:1).

Temptation - the devil tempts that the believer might fail God's standard of faith and fall to sin. Example is Adam and Eve.

God cannot be tempted because there is no evil in him nor he would use evil to tempt you. He doesn't use evil to tempt others.

## **DISCUSSION**

How do you recognize if you are being tested or tempted? Share an example.

## **WORD**

James said each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires, he is dragged away and enticed, then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full grown, gives birth to death. This means spiritual death. That means separation from God.

***Psalms 7:14 (NIV)***

*Whoever is pregnant with evil conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment.*

***Romans 6:23a (NIV)***

*23For the wages of sin is death,...*

## **DISCUSSION**

Why is it important to recognize the source of our temptation?

## **LIFE APPLICATION**

We can overcome temptation by:

1. **Repent**- we are constantly tempted, let us repent constantly and make it our lifestyle. Matthew 3:8 says. Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
2. **Resist**- James 4:7 Submit yourself, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. We declare "Sin is not my master, Jesus is my Lord." Say it five times.
3. **Restore**- Psalm 51:12 says "Restore to me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with a willing spirit. Other meaning of restore is establish. Let us be establish with our spiritual foundation.

## **VERSE TO MEDITATE ON**

James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

## **PRAYER**

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.

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