

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps
Lesson 30
Blessings of Temptation

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We will begin this Bible Study in James 1:12-16 these verses address the topic of temptation. Temptation is a reality that each of us faces on a daily basis; but praise the Lord, what we'll see in the Bible is that temptation does not have to lead to sin. If you are saved, you have the power of the Holy Spirit within you to resist temptation and live a life of victory.

James 1:12-16 ***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren***

Let's look closely at the concept of temptation. We will see there are two types of temptation and that there are blessings for those who endure temptation. Let's back up to James 1 where we learn about the two types of temptation. We first see in verses two through four a temptation that is referred to as a trial. James 1:2-4 ***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*** In these verses, the Holy Spirit is discussing the difficulties, challenges, and hardships of life that all of us face. It is difficult for us to tell from time to time whether those things are directly sent by God or just allowed by God. But in either case, the Bible tells us they are certainly used by God to develop patience and character in our lives and to make us perfect (mature) in Him. The difficulties, hardships, struggles, and the trials, God can use them to make us more like Jesus Christ.

The "***Knowing***" in James 1:3 enables us to do something that is contrary to common-sense expectations. ***Count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations;*** (James 1:2) then Romans 5:3 says ***glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*** If we know that God can and will build in us character traits of Jesus Christ through life's challenges, trials and struggles, then we can face and endure those challenges positively rather than negatively. The reason we have to be thankful is that we have the Holy Spirit who gives us power to overcome those temptations.

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Let's get back to our text James 1:12-16 Here is the second type of temptation which is different than the one mentioned above. This temptation is an enticement, as shown in verse 14. It is associated with evil in verse 13, with lust in verse 14, and with sin and death in verse 15. This is not a test of our faith. It is a test of our love - Verse 12. According to verse 13, God has nothing to do with this type of temptation. He will use our trials, difficulties and struggles, but God never tempts man to sin. The tempter is the devil.

It is very important we understand and distinguish the two types of temptation. Let's look at a few places in the Bible that are often misunderstood due to the reader not comparing scripture with scripture. These will help us to see the two types more clearly.

Genesis 22:1 ***And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.***

Is Genesis 22:1 a contradiction in the Bible? No, it is the definition of the first type of temptation, a trial. Let's see what scripture tells us in Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:17 ***By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,***

The Holy Spirit is giving us a clear understanding of the distinction between two types of temptation through these two verses which confirm His statements in James.

James 1:13 ***Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:***

God was testing Abraham to see if he really loved Him, and when we read the entirety of Genesis 22, Abraham passed the test. He was willing to do what God had asked him to do.

Let's go back in Abraham's life to Genesis 16:1-3 Here is an example of second definition of temptation. God had no part of this one; this was driven by the lust of Abraham's flesh. Keep in mind God had promised Abraham in Genesis 12 that through his seed he would become a great nation. This time Abraham was tempted with evil and succumbed, which brought the death of billions of Jews throughout history through Ishmael's seed. This temptation was an enticement based on his lust.

James 1:15 ***Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death***

Let's make note of a few key words in scripture to allow us to get a clear understanding of these two types of temptation:

Temptation in James 1:12 starts with the word "Blessed".

Temptation in James 1:13-15 ends with the word "death".

Never be deceived into thinking that sin and disobedience to the word of God will actually be a source of blessing. What we need is to allow our hearts and minds to be convinced of is what the Bible clearly states in

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James 1:12 ***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*** The blessing comes when we resist sin. The blessing is in living a righteous, godly, holy life, not allowing the lust of my flesh to dictate my actions, but to follow the will of God as directed by the word of God.

Psalms 84:11 ***For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.***

If there is something that God has forbidden, it is because God knows that it is not a good thing. The only positive aspect of sin for all human history is the temporary pleasure in sin. Hebrew 11:25 says, ***Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*** The pleasure of sin only lasts a season. When the season runs its course, it's never worth it. When blessing runs its course, it pleases us and the Lord. The blessing is in obedience. The blessing is in fulfilling the will of God not in gratifying the lust of the flesh.

Endureth is another key word in our text. ***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation:*** Why is enduring a temptation a blessing in itself? Because we are never alone.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ***There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye*** (this word is plural) ***may be able to bear it.*** God is with us during the temptation and will always give us a way to escape.

Why is temptation something we have to endure? This passage answers the question Romans 7:18-19 ***For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*** Does that sound familiar? Please, Lord, I want to live by the Bible I want to do right, that is a part of me. Then there is another part of me that makes it really difficult. This part wants the exact opposite. It tries constantly to pull me in the other direction. This other part of me doesn't know how to do what pleases God.

Romans 7:20-24 ***Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*** If you are saved, the Bible says you are a new creature. (2 Corinthians 5:17) If you're saved, the Holy Spirit dwells within you, your sin has been judicially forgiven, cleansed in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Even though we are a new man, we still have an old

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man too. A new creature, but kind of still the same. Right? We have the Holy Spirit who wants to please the Lord, and God works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure (Philippines 2:13). Yet we still have this flesh that has a will that is quite the opposite. Two nature's, right? That is where temptation comes from. That is why we have to endure temptation. The fact that we are tempted, even though we are saved, does not mean that we have lost our salvation. The fact that you still view sin in some ways as an enticement, as an allurements, as something into which you are prone to wonder doesn't mean you are not saved. It means God has not finished what He started in you when He saved you. Be of good comfort, my Christian friend, there is a day of redemption just around the next corner that will take place when Jesus comes to redeem His purchased possession (Ephesians 1:14). I thank God that on that day, He will deliver me from the old man, this body of death. In the meantime, the flesh will lust against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, these are contrary one to another. (Galatians 5:17).

We must endure temptation. We have the power to endure through the Holy Spirit and a way of escape through God. By enduring we receive a blessing.

Look back at James 1 and the first type of temptation. What does it produce? It produces patience. Look at the second type of temptation. What does it require? It requires endurance. Maybe the first type of temptation will help us face the second type of temptation. What is the blessing that comes from a temptation that has been endured? You receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised.

Our next key word is found in the phrase, "to them that love Him". Love. It all comes down to this. Do I love God, or do I love sin? Temptation is Satan's desire to mock God through my lack of love for Him. Will I yield to the temptation with my fallen nature, or will I resist with my new nature? It all depends on my love for the Lord.

Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew chapter six, ***And lead us not into temptation,*** We're supposed to pray as instructed in Matthew 26:41 ***Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*** Here's something very important for us to understand. There are ways that we can minimize temptation. It just makes logical sense. The fewer times we are tempted, the fewer times we will sin. If we want to sin less often, maybe we can find a way to be tempted less often.

Take note that the Bible gives us the same verse twice in Proverbs, so there must be something here that God is trying to draw our attention to.

Proverbs 22:3 ***A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.***

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Proverbs 27:12 ***A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.***

The prudent man finds a different path to follow instead of walking headlong into sin like the simple man.

When we talk about New Testament Christians being separate from the world, having higher standards and convictions, this is what we are trying to achieve. If we find ways to take ourselves away from as much temptation as possible, we are less likely to sin and break our fellowship with God. Romans 13:14 ***But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*** That is why we are admonished to stay away from bars, night clubs, worldly activities, internet pornography, and internet foolishness (Psalm 101:3). We should not make provision for our flesh. We should not put ourselves in compromising situations. We have flesh, and it has lusts. Why would we want to displease the Lord? The tempter wants us to sin, ruin our testimony, and be dragged down to Hell. Since he cannot take us to Hell, he will settle for breaking our fellowship with God. Let us not give into the tempter; let's us allow the Holy Spirit to help us resist him and he will flee (James 4:7).

1 Corinthians 10:13 ***There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.***

Your sin is not greater than the power of the Holy Spirit. Your addiction is not greater than the power of the Holy Spirit. Your carnal appetites and desires are not greater than the power of the Holy Spirit. Your temperament, your personality, your predispositions... God is greater than all those things.

1 John 4:4 ***Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.***

Your cigarette habit, your alcohol habit, your drug habit, your sex habit, your pornography habit, your gambling habit, your anger habit...

GOD IS GREATER!!!

Do you love God? or Do you love your sin?

Notes

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Name _____

Note: (*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.

1. What are the two types of temptation? *
2. What is the importance of "ye" in 1 Corinthians 10:13?
3. Explain why there is no contradiction in Genesis 22:1? *
4. What are the long-term consequences of Abraham's affair with Hagar?
5. Why is it that when you give into temptation, you do not lose your salvation? *
6. Why is it so hard to resist temptation? *
7. Why is the admonition of Proverbs 22:3; Proverbs 27:12 so important to the Christian?
8. Explain Romans 13:14.

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9. What are the benefits of enduring temptation? *
10. Which type of temptation did Abraham give in to in Genesis 16:1-3?
11. What does the first type of temptation bring? *
12. What does the second type of temptation bring? *
13. What should you do to avoid temptation? *

True/false

- If I give into temptation, I can always claim 1 John 1:9 with no consequences.
- My anger builds character in my personality.
- The human race is naturally good.



Scripture memorization

Romans 3:12; 1John 4:4; 1 Corinthians 10:13

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?