

Speaker : Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Title : What to do when wrong seems right?
Scriptures : James 1:12-18

(James 1:12-18)

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.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

INTRODUCTION

- When "wrong seems right" is how temptation works.
- "Trials and testings" is the same word in Greek but there is a difference in purpose.
 - Satan tempts you to sin by appealing to your weaknesses and destroys you. God brings trials in your life for you to experience His grace and sufficiency.
 - The murderer uses a knife to cut and kill you. The surgeon uses the knife to bring healing. The murderer is Satan, the surgeon is God.
- Temptation is everywhere. We are daily tempted to sin in thoughts and actions
- We must be prepared to handle temptations well. James says,

(James 1:18)

"Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures."

- The truth of God's Word will bring us out of temptation
Illustration: - Jesus and His Temptation:

The preparation:

(Luke 3:21-22) – The Truth

21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

The trial:

(Luke 4:1-4) – Satan comes to Jesus

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. 3

And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."⁴
But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

WHAT TO DO WHEN WRONG SEEMS RIGHT?

- Acknowledge the reality of temptation (James 1:13)

(James 1:13)

“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.”

- Note that James says, “when he is tempted” and not “if”.
 - Temptation is inevitable.
 - Temptation is not a sin but yielding to temptation is.
 - No one escapes temptation.
- The Heroes of Faith (Hebrews 11) were all tempted - Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, and etc.
- Jesus was tempted.

(Hebrews 4:15)

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,
but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

- God will not keep us from temptation but will deliver us in temptation.

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- You will not be overtaken by temptation.
- God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.
- With the temptation, God will make the way of escape.
- God is faithful.

- Assume the responsibility of temptation

- Don't blame others when you fall into temptation. E.g. Adam and Eve.

(James 1:13)

“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.”

- Satan is the tempter as seen in the case of Jesus and in Job.

Job said (Job 1:21)

“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there.
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Job's wife said (Job 2:9)

“Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

Thank God when God blessed him in the end,
Job did not get double when it came to his wife. (Job 42:10-17)

- You will never be an over comer if you play the blame game.

□ Anticipate temptation (James 1:14-15)

(James 1:14-15)

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death”

- Temptation is not an event. It is a process.
 - Satan is a strategist
(2 Corinthians 2:11)
“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
 - “Device” is strategy
James (1:14)
“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed”.
- Desire is a God-given ability to help us accomplish things
 - Satan entices us through desire and robs us of the fear of God to do what is right.
 - To be “drawn away” is to “be ensnared” by Satan who traps you.
 - He puts bait and leads you away from what pleases God.
 - James says, a birth of a child is a 9-month process that eventually brings forth a child.
 - Sin is a fruit of death that does not happen immediately but it will happen.
 - You may say, it is your right to do what you want but you do not have the right to choose the results of your choice.

□ Act by focusing your mind and heart on God’s truth (James 1:17-18)

(James 1:17&18)

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

- Everything that is good and perfect comes from God.
 - Don’t resist temptation or fight temptation by saying you won’t do it.
 - Sin has power to enslave you.
- Feed your mind on what God says.

(Philippians 4:8-9)

“ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

(Proverbs 23:7)

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”