

DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

LESSON NOTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | HOW TEMPTATION WORKS (JAMES 1:9-18) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY TRIALS

James 1:9-11 (NKJV)... Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

- Trials serve to remind us that this life is temporary and that real riches await us in eternity.
 - *Mark 8:36 (NKJV)... what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*

LIVING FOR THE LORD IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION

James 1:12 (NKJV)... 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.

- The promise of blessing is given to the one who _____ temptation.
 - *Galatians 6:9 (NLT)... So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.*

- The purpose of God _____ temptation is to _____ us.
- The “crown of life” is our reward for enduring temptation.
- The “crown of life” is promised to those who love Him...
 - Our sin grieves Him: *Genesis 6:5-6... Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*
 - Some resist temptation because they fear bad consequences.
 - Some resist temptation because they fear man.
 - Others resist the temptation to one sin because of the power of another sin.
 - The best motive for resisting temptation focuses on God...
 - *Charles Spurgeon - “So that those who endure temptation rightly, endure it because they love God. They say to themselves, ‘How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’ They cannot fall into sin because it would grieve him who loves them so well, and whom they love with all their hearts.”*

HOW TEMPTATION COMES & WORKS...

James 1:13-16 (NKJV)... 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. 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. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

- **Temptation does not come from God...**
 - God may _____ someone, but He never _____ them.
 - *Charles Spurgeon - “Satan tempts: God tries. But the same trial may be both a temptation and a trial; and it may be a trial from God’s side, and a temptation from Satan’s side, just as Job suffered from Satan, and it was a temptation; but he also suffered from God through Satan, and so it was a trial to him.”*
 - *Job 2:9-10 (NLT)... His wife said to him, “Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.” But Job replied, “You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?” So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.*

- *Matthew Poole - “He shows the great cause of sin; that lust hath a greater hand in it than either the devil or his instruments, who cannot make us sin without ourselves: they sometimes tempt, and do not prevail.”*

- **Temptation comes when we are drawn away by our own fleshly desires and enticed. It’s the world, the flesh, and the devil who provide the enticement... NEVER God.**
 - *Romans 6:23 (NLT)... For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

 - Temptation loses power when we stop volunteering for it.

- **Springing forth from corrupt desire is sin. Springing forth from sin is death.**
 - *Genesis 4:7 (NLT)... You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But YOU must subdue it and be its master.*

 - We must be aware of the nature of sin and how it works in our lives.

GOD’S GOODNESS

James 1:17-18 (NKJV)... 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. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

- **God’s goodness is constant... There is no variation with Him.**
- **Instead of shadows... God is light & the Father of lights.**
 - The ancient Greek used here is actually “the Father of THE lights,” meaning: The lights that govern both day and the night.