



Encountering Temptations with Pastor Max Frazier

James 1:12-18

AN INTRODUCTION

Where did sin come from?

If this world was created perfectly, then where did evil and sin come from?

The presence of sin creates a huge problem for us.

Why would God allow sin to be present on a perfect world?

We know that sin is present – everyday we see evidences of it.

THE REWARDS OF PERSEVERING UNDER TRIALS

James 1:12

“Blessed” – same word Jesus used with each Beatitude.

“Blessed” – conveys the idea of a profound inner joy and peace that can only come the Lord Jesus.

It is possible to “stand the test” of our problems and trials.

We can “stand the test” with the Spirit’s enablement.

The reward – the crown of life.

What James is NOT saying: A person must go through a series of difficult problems in order to be saved.

The Bible does not state this at all. For some people, this might be the cause for their coming to faith in Jesus, but these are the exceptions rather than the rule.

The Bible has much to say about the potential for trials and problems after one comes to faith in Christ Jesus:

John 16:33; Matthew 5:11-12

“Crown of life” – the laurel wreath given to those who won an athletic contest. It was the reward for persevering.

ENDURING TEMPTATIONS

James 1:13-18

Our first recourse is to cast blame upon someone else.

Can God be blamed for the temptations that come into our lives?

Can God cause people to sin?

The answer is a strong NO!!!

Difference between trials and temptations.

Trials come from God to cause us to grow in our relationship with Him.

Satan can use those trials to cause us to do evil. That is “temptation.”

Illustration from the life of Joseph
Genesis 37-50

Joseph’s trial came from God; the temptation to sin came from Satan.

How are we tempted?

Step #1 – We have a desire; temptations begin in our minds; “carried away” – being “dragged away” by some strong inner desire, like an unsuspecting animal lured into a trap.

Step #2 – We are enticed; reference to bait used in fishing; Satan can make sin so exciting and often it is so beautifully packaged.

Step #3 – Action; The mere fact of temptation is not evil; it is the acting upon the temptation that produces the evil.

The consequences – Death (Romans 6:23)

“Sin brings forth physical death, separating the soul from the body; spiritual death, separating the soul from God; and eternal death, separating both body and soul from God forever.” – John MacArthur.

How can we be successful in our battle against temptation?

It begins in our minds.

Romans 12:2, Philippians 4:8

What does God desire to do?

Nothing but good comes from God.

God remains constant, even His own nature is incapable of being changed by anything.

Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8; Isaiah 40:13-14

God seeks to perfect within us Christian character.

A CHALLENGE

“The Devil made me do it!” – Flip Wilson

Theology only partly true:

Satan does bring us to the point where sin becomes a viable option for us.

But, sinning is a matter of our choosing.

Remedy: “Be careful little mind what you think.”

