



Sermon Transcript July 1, 2018

The Gospel According to James The Slippery Slope of Temptation James 1:13-18

This message from the Bible was addressed originally to the people of Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church on July 1, 2018 at 511 Maple Street, Wethersfield, CT, 06109 by Pastor Michael Conserva. This is a transcription that bears the strength and weaknesses of oral delivery. It is not meant to be a polished essay. An audio copy of the sermon on CD is available by request at (860) 563-8286. An audio version of this sermon may also be found on the church website at www.wethefc.com.

James: 1:13-18

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. **ESV**

¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, ¹⁴ and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

¹⁶ So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. ¹⁸ He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. **NLT**

Sermon Outline & Notes

The Slippery Slope of Temptation James 1:13-18

Introduction: When misfortune strikes we tend to look for something or someone to blame. Tragedy is often random and mindless: an infant is killed by a stray bullet fired in a drive-by shooting; an airliner crashes, killing hundreds; a young woman dies in an automobile accident, the victim of a drunk driver. Senseless tragedy leaves us feeling numb, powerless and uncertain.

James turns his attention from those who endure and pass the test (v.12) to those about to abandon the effort.

We Need to Understand Four Facts About Temptation.

1. Temptations Are Inevitable (James 1:13)

Let no one say when he is tempted.

2. God is Not the Source of Temptations (James 1:13)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

1) God Cannot Be Tempted by Evil

2) God Does Not Tempt Anyone To Evil

3. The Process of Temptation (James 1:14)

¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- Deception (enticement)
- Desire (lust)

- Disobedience (birth to sin)
- Death (sin brings forth death)

But the Good News is that any Temptation can be resisted!

4. Temptations Can Be Resisted (James 1:16-18)



¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

To Resist temptations we need to focus on three truths...

- 1) The Goodness of God
- 2) The Changelessness of God
- 3) The Word of God

Reflect and Discuss

1. How do unbelievers you know attempt to make it through painful circumstances? How have you persevered through such times in your life?
2. What qualifies as a trial? What about a temptation? How do trials test the genuineness of your faith?
3. If true faith endures to the end, how is this not a way of earning your salvation?
4. How should the need to persevere in faith affect the way we counsel those who have just recently professed Christ?
5. Explain how believing in God's sovereignty through our trials is crucial to persevering faith.
6. List some ways painful circumstances and unanswered questions can actually strengthen your faith.
7. Since God is sovereign, does this mean we are not at fault when we give in to sin? Explain your answer.
8. How does Scripture counsel us to overcome sin's attractions?
9. If someone no longer has an interest in being a Christian due to a trial, what should we conclude about that person's faith? How would you counsel that person?
10. What role does knowing our final reward play in enduring trials?

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