

I. BIBLE: JAMES 1:12-27

A. TESTING (1:12-16; see 2f)

1. crown of life promised to persevering love (12; Rev.2:10; see Mt.10:22; Jn.14:21)
2. the liability of temptation is from us not God (13-16; see 2,3; 12a,b; see Mt.4:1f(Heb.5:8f); 6:13; 1Cor.10:13)

B. GIFTS (1:17,18 see 5f)

1. God gives good gifts (17; see Mt.5:45; 6:11; 7:11; Lk.6:38)
2. God gives salvation (18; see Lk.11:12; Eph.2:8,1f)

C. RELIGION (1:19-27; see 9f)

1. listen patiently vs. speak angrily (19-21; see 3:1f)
2. listen carefully to do diligently (22-27; see 2:14f; see Ezr.7:10; Ps.143:10; Eph.2:10,1f; Tt.3:14 (1:16; 2:7,14; 3:1,8); Ex.20:1&2f; Rev.1:3)

II. DOCTRINE: THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL (1:13-16; see 2Cor.2:11; Eph.6:11; see 1Tm.3:7; 2Tm.2:26; see *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, Thomas Brooks; *Peeking into the Devil's Playbook*, Robert Spinney)

A. TEMPTATION: LUST, SIN, DEATH (1:14,15)

1. lusts of the flesh (14,15; Mt.5:28; Rom.13:14; Eph.2:3a; 1Pt.2:11; 4:2; 1Jn.2:16)
2. lusts of the heart (14,15; Mt.15:18,19(Jms.1:26;3:2); see Rom.1:24; Eph.2:3b; 2Tim.2:22)
3. deceit (16; see Eph.4:22; 2Cor.11:3,14; Heb.3:13; 2Pt.3:17; Rev.20:10)
4. carried away & enticed (14; see Gal.2:13; 2Pt.3:17)
5. sin & death (15; Eph.2:3; Rom.6:23)
6. illustrations
 - a. iron filings and a magnet (14; see Jn.14:30)
 - b. dry tinder and fiery arrows (Ps.120:4; see Eph.6:16)
 - c. a hungry fish and a baited hook (see Rom.6:21; Heb.3:13)

B. THREE WITNESSES (see Dt.19:15; Mt.18:16)

1. Eve (Gen.3:6; 2,3)
2. David (2Sam.11:1f (chps.11-19); Ps.51)
3. Paul (Rom.7:4,11,23)

C. SALVATION: WILL, WORD, LIFE (18; see 21,25; see Ps.119:11; Mt.6:10; 26:42; 1Pt.4:2; contrast Gen.3:2f; Mt.4:4f; *contrast* A above)

III. PRACTICE: DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY! (1:12-18)

A. LOOK INTENTLY AT THE WORD OF TRUTH SO YOU WILL NOT BE DECEIVED

(Jms.1:16,18,25; 2Th.2:10; see Mt.4:1f/Gen.3:13; see Eph.4:14,11f; 5:6; 2Pt.3:17)

B. SATISFY YOUR GOOD DESIRES OBEDIENTLY SO YOU WILL NOT BE CARRIED AWAY

(1:17; see Mt.6:11; 1Tm.4:1-5; Prov.5:15-23; 1Cor.7:5)

C. KILL YOUR EVIL DESIRES RUTHLESSLY SO YOU WILL NOT BE CARRIED AWAY (1:21,26;

Mk.9:43f; Rom 8:13; 13:14; Col.3:5; 1Pt.2:11; 4:1)

D. ABSTAIN FROM YOUR GOOD DESIRES WHEN EXTRAORDINARY TESTS REQUIRE THIS

(1:12f; see Mt.4:1f)

E. ILLUSTRATIONS: DIETARY HABITS; FIRE PREVENTION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. Who tempts us? What comforts and encouragements do we have in our temptations?
4. What does God *not* do? What *does* He do?
5. What is God's great gift to us? How has He given it? Therefore, what should you do?
6. Do you "look intently" at the word of God? If not, why not? If so, how so? How could you grow in this practice? How could you benefit more fully from the teaching ministry of your church?
7. Are you a good listener? Are you skilled in bridling your tongue when necessary? How do you deal with anger in order to avoid letting it cause you to sin?
8. Why are we so easily tempted? What should we do to minimize this liability? What must we do when our desires are starting to carry us away to sin under the influence of temptation?
9. Considering Eve's and David's sins, give some other examples of how temptations are deceitful.
10. Which illustration did you find most useful? Why? What other illustrations can you think of?
11. Have you ever needed to abstain from good desires in preparation for extraordinary tests? Tell as much of the story as you think will honor God and bless others who hear it.