

James 1:11-14

The Greatest Source of Temptation

Trials & temptations ...

I. Consider the Source

A. Honor God

B. Target the Culprits

1. The Devil's Wiles

2. The World's Wares

3. The Heart's Wants

II. The Axis of Desire

A. The Heart of the Matter

B. The Nature of the Conflict

C. Combatting Enticement

III. An Alliance for Warfare

A. Divine Assistance

B. Daily Persistence

C. Decorated Resistance

... and a crown of life.

Children, Listen ...

1. This may seem like a silly question, but does God ever try to get us to sin?

How do you know that?

2. The devil tries to get us to disobey God but if we do can we ever really blame the devil for the bad things we do?

3. If we do bad things along with our school or neighborhood friends – can we blame them for what we do?

4. So if we can't blame God, the devil or our friends when we are bad ... who's left?!

5. God forgives us our sin when we ask him to. Do you think He will also help you when you ask him to keep from doing something you know is wrong?

Process of Elimination

It might seem absurd to us to think about blaming God for the temptations that come our way. While trials are ultimately ordained by God, the lure of sinful reactions to either trials or temptations is not the work of God. The devil is constantly at work trying to get us to slip up, but as our first parents learned the hard way, while he is a wily character, we can't blame him for falling for his trickery. The world is full of things that may lure us away from obeying God, "friends" may urge us to participate in that go against God and our consciences, and even loved one are prone to provoke us to anger on occasion. We face a daily barrage of temptations but we bear the responsibility for how we respond to the things that might stimulate us to sin. By process of elimination we discover that the source sinful reaction is our own heart when our desires are amiss. That is why we need to seek the Lord to give us inner strength and resolve against all forms of unrighteousness. With God's help we can resist the devil, have the alertness to flee the many temptations that come our way, and we can ask him to bring our desires more and more into conformity to His will for our lives. Don't take one more step on your journey without the full armor of God in place. (Ephesians 6:11-20)