

“How Do I Handle Temptation?”

Lesson Text: **James 1:12-15.**

I. Do I Understand The Nature And Goal Of Temptation?

- **Nature Of Temptation:** The desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise:
 - a thing or course of action that attracts or tempts someone: *the temptations of life in New York.*
 - (the Temptation) the tempting of Jesus by the Devil (see Matt. 4).
 - The Devil Is In The Business Of Selling Sin To Us- **1 John 2:15-17.** (By Our Own Desires).
 - **Genesis 3:6**— He Makes Sin Look Attractive, Something You Need, And Thus Desirable!
 - Temptation Is A Lure To Satisfy Carnal Desires (Fish Bait On Hook—Bait On A Mouse Trap).
- **The Goal Of Temptation**
 - The Devil Uses It To Ensnare Us- **1 Timothy 6:9; 2 Timothy 2:26.**
 - The Devil Uses It To Draw Us Away From God- **James 1:14; 2 Peter 3:17; James 4:8.**
 - The Devil Uses It To Cripple Our Influence For Good- **Matthew 5:13.**
 - The Devil Uses It To Destroy Us- **1 Peter 5:8; James 1:15; Romans 6:23; Matthew 7:13-14.**

II. Do I Have A Proper Attitude Toward Temptation And Sin?

- Fighting Temptation Takes Place In The Mind Or Heart Of Man.
- Our Attitude Toward Temptation Can Affect The Outcome:
 - How Does Not Taking Sin Seriously Affect How We Handle It?
 - **1 Kings 16:30-31; Ezra 9:1-6.**
 - Do We Hate Sin As We Should? **Romans 12:9.**
 - Does The Sins Of Others Bother Us? **2 Peter 2:6-8.** Not Self-Righteously- **Galatians 6:1.**
 - Do I Have Over-Confidence In My Abilities? **1 Corinthians 10:12.**
 - Do I Have A Defeatist Attitude With Temptation? **1 Corinthians 10:13.**
 - Do I Need Self-Control & Discipline To Handle Temptation? **1 Corinthians 9:27.**

III. Do I Rely On God’s Protection In Times Of Temptation?

- Do I Try To Face Temptation All Alone?
- Do I Trust In God To Help In Times Of Temptations?
- God’s Protection And Help:
 - (1) Prayer. **Luke 11:1-4.**
 - (2) God’s Word. **Psalms 119:11; Matthew 4:1-10.**
 - (3) The Brethren. **James 5:16.**
 - (4) The Spiritual Armor. **Ephesians 6:10-18.**
- Do I Have The Willingness To Use God’s Power To Help?

IV. Am I Enduring Temptation As I Should?

- Do I Know My Weaknesses?
- Am I Being Careful In My “Down-Time?”
- Am I Avoiding Areas Or Places Of Temptation?
- Am I Staying Away From People Who Will Tempt Me To Do Wrong?
- Am I Mindful Of Why I Must Endure? **James 1:12.**