

James 1

I have entitled today's message, "**Hard Times**" **Part 8**

James 1:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

James 1:1-8

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Stark contrast, change of gears

13

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Let us pray

You may be seated.

“Hard Times, of our own doing”

Beginning in verse 2, we have been seeing the word “temptations”.

We have been working within the broad sense of this word temptation which would include trials/difficulties/hardships.

But now God zeros in on a single aspect of temptation.

The solicitation to sin.

We have shifted from outward trials to inward temptations.

In the Greek language, these words are different.

There are multiple sides/faces/facets of the word temptation.

Beginning in verse 13, It is the solicitation to evil, the seduction to sin.

God has a divine purpose for trials and hardships but inducing us to sin is not one of them.

What God is trying to do in a persons life is to bring about patience, endurance not Sin.

Through hard times, a person is built up.

And we see that in verse 3 and 4.

Growth through trials.

When God sends trials or in anything else that God does, God is using those things to promote holiness, and maturity.

God does not send trials upon us to make us worse but to make us better.

If men commit sin or grow worse under any trials or temptations, it is because of the perversion of their own hearts.

Temptations demonstrate what we believe and whom we love.

If the form of a temptation involves an allurements of sin or inducement to evil, this is not from God.

This is not his design.

God reminds us of a grave danger:

I. Never say that the source of sin, fountain of sin, the reason of sin is God.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God

Men are very quick to charge their sin to God.

To lay fault at His feet.

God is not the author of sin.

Do not ascribe temptations of sin to Him.

To accuse God for our own sinful decisions, is a defamation of God's character.

To tempt to sin is contrary to the holiness and purity of God.

This is an attack on God Himself.

Let no man intimate in any way that God caused us to sin.

This is dishonorable to God and is an affront to God.

Let no man say neither in his mouth or in his heart.

It is blasphemous to cast the blame for our sins upon God.

This verse is a sharp rebuke to any one who tries to make God his excuse for his own sin.

No matter what our mind may suggest or accuse God of, God makes a plain and straightforward statement in this verse.

God says, Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God. vs. 13

I wonder why we have this statement made to us.

What do people do when they sin?

People blame God.

Our mind wants to accuse God.

God you have all things under your control, you did not control things therefore I was tempted and fell into sin.

God you created us with such dispositions and weaknesses to fail.

God you cause us to fall into sin since You could have prevented it.

Nothing is more common to man than to transfer the blame of sin and evil to someone else.

We have seen this from the earliest beginning of mankind, when Adam blamed Eve.

But he also blamed God.

Gen. 3:12

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Never say, I am tempted of God to sin.

II. It is impossible for God to be tempted to evil.

For God cannot be tempted with evil, vs. 13

This speaks to the character/attributes of God.

Specifically to His holiness.

There is nothing in God that can be tempted to sin.

He can not be induced to sin.

Temptation to sin is a subject that does not pertain to Him.

God cannot be tempted to do evil.

There is nothing in God that has the tendency to sin.

There can be nothing presented from without to induce Him to do wrong.

God has not evil passion that can be gratified like man.

There is no want in God, so that allurements could be presented to seek what He has not.

There is no desire of wealth so He cannot be tempted in the realm.

God is not seeking happiness.

God is untemptable.

God is above such a thing.

His nature is infinitely opposed to such a thing.

He is not influenced or seduced by sin.

He is not subject to evil or sinful suggestions.

God is incapable of being tempted to do evil.

The Bible clearly states, "God cannot be tempted by evil".

The phrase "by evil" is important because it highlights the point, God was trying to make.

This clearly indicates that God cannot be enticed to commit evil.

Many have brought up seemingly contradicting Scriptures.

Deut. 6:16

Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

The Israelites murmured because of a lack of water.

This instructs the Israelites to be careful that they do not tempt the Lord.

When we sin, we are putting God to the test to see if He will respond to our sin by doing what He has said He will do.

We must not “test” the extent of God’s mercy, grace and help.

I am going to jump off this building and God will save me.

Matt. 4:5-7

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6

And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Malachi 3:15 refers to the wicked who tempt God with their evil lifestyles.

Even the Israelites tempted God.

I Cor. 10:9

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

Most famous one is when Jesus was tempted in **Matt. 4:1**

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Jesus in his physical body in his human flesh was tempted.

This has led many to believe that since Jesus was tempted, therefore He is not God. That is not true!

For God cannot be tempted with evil.

It is important to understand the difference between internal enticement and external enticement.

When Jesus was tempted, His temptation came from an external source: Satan.

There is no internal enticement for Jesus to do evil.

In all the temptations which Christ endured, there was nothing within Him that answered to sin, or was inflamed to sin.

God is Untemptable not untempted.

God cannot be tempted with evil.

There is nothing in God for which sin can appeal.

Heb. 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Heb. 2:18

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

One more thing:

Satans temptation toward Jesus cannot be regarded as sin, for temptation and sin are not equal.

Temptation is not to be equated with sin.

We may be tempted to do a lot of things, but it does not mean that we have sinned.

III. God does not tempt, solicit, allure, or entice people to sin.

Neither tempteth he any man to sin. Vs. 13e

God does not tempt us to sin.

This is a solicitation to sin.

God is not in this business.

God does not tempt us to sin or to evil.

God never places anything before man to tempt him to sin.

We are tempted by our own flesh.

God does not draw man by design into sin.

God does not present to man inducements to sin.

God Tempts no man by any direct influence by infusing evil thoughts, inclinations, and desires.

We are taking here about inward temptations.

Inordinate desires that entice us to sin.

God is not the author of these.

They flow from our corrupted nature.

God does not tempt us to sin but He certainly tests us or to prove ourselves faithful, to cause us to learn endurance and patience, to make us better, as a trainer in the marathon of life.

He is about our best interests. Always.

It is said that God tempted Abraham but there the tempting meant the trying or proving, not that of seducement to evil.

Heb. 11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Gen. 22:1

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

God did not tempt Abraham to sin.

God never tempts us to evil.

Ex. 15:25

And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

Ex. 16:4

Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Deut. 8:2

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

The goal of God's trials are to bring man endurance, a blessing, a crown of life and a greater relationship with God.

Trials can be ascribed to God but temptations in the bad sense of the word, cannot in any way be ascribed to God.

We will be tried, tested and put in the fire. God trains us.

God gives us opportunities to demonstrate belief, faith, trust, endurance

God never tries to cause us to fall into sin or illicit evil responses from us.

God never allures our heart toward sin.

Hard Times

Let us stand for closing invitation

We must deal with our sin problem,

We cannot blame God.

We must accept responsibility for our own sins.

Gospel

God does not tempt us to sin neither can He be tempted to sin.