

Faith that Wins Over Temptations in Life

James 1:12-18

The circumstances in our lives may be a trial or a temptation, depending upon our response to it. God's intent for the circumstance is to reward us with life (v 12). Satan's intent for the circumstance is to destroy us with death (v 15).

- I. The _____ of temptation: It's _____ within me (12-14)
 - A. _____ - Desires for _____
 - B. _____ - Desires for _____
 - C. _____ - Desires for _____
 - D. _____ - Desires for _____
 - E. _____ - Desires for _____
 - F. _____ - Desires for _____
- II. The _____ of temptation: It's _____ within me (14)
- III. The _____ of temptation: It's _____ to deaden me (15-16)
- IV. The _____ of temptation: God's _____ to me (5; 12; 17-18)

In the testing of Jesus in the wilderness after forty days and nights of fasting, the difference between *peirasmos* as testing and as temptation can be seen clearly, the same distinction seen in this first chapter of James (between vv. 2–3, 12 and vv. 13–14). Matthew reports that “Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matt. 4:1). But the remainder of the account (vv. 2–11) makes clear that, whereas from Satan’s perspective, the experience was intended as temptation (inducement to sin), for Jesus the experience was a test, which He passed without the least wavering. Despite Satan’s clever use of God’s Word, he did not succeed even slightly in penetrating Jesus’ impregnability to sin.

- John MacArthur

In Jewish thinking, death was often seen more as a trajectory than a destination. To be “dead” was often a description of the poor quality of life rather than the cessation of being [Deut 30:15; Prov 12:28; 13:14] . . . Jewish Christians saw people as either traveling the path of life (walking with Christ by the Spirit) or the path of death (walking apart from Christ in the flesh). This “death-like existence” is the opposite of the “abundant life” Christ promised (John 10:10). No longer can the sinner walking in death live out the true life in the Spirit . . . For those walking in death, gone are the signs of spiritual vitality, like fading memories of estranged friends. That’s the kind of death James has in mind.

- Charles Swindoll