

# STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JAMES

## STUDY NUMBER 2 – JAMES 1:13-18

I love this story a lot. It's called "A White Lie."

Have you ever told a white lie? You're going to love this one, especially all of you ladies who bake for the church events.

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Baptist church ladies group bake sale in Tuscaloosa but she forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered it in the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets she found a dusty old angel food cake mix in the back of her kitchen cabinet and quickly made it while drying her hair and dressing and helping her son Brian back for Scout camp. But when Alice took the cake from the oven the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured. She said, "Oh dear, there's no time to bake another cake." This cake was so important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church and in her new community of new friends. So being inventive and not wanting anyone to think she was not the perfect woman, able to handle all things at all times, or that God-forbid that she was not participating in her church's bazaar. She looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. Alice found it in the bathroom. A roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the

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finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect. Before she left the house to drop the cake off by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter Amanda, gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the minute the door opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home. When the daughter arrived at the sale she found that the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone and called her Mom. Alice was horrified. She was beside herself. Everyone would know. What would they think? "Oh my!" she wailed. She would be ostracized, talked about, ridiculed. She would even have to move again. All night Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people, pointing their fingers at her, talking about her behind her back. The next day Alice promised herself that she would try not to think about the cake and she would attend a fancy luncheon bridal shower at the home of a friend of a friend and try to have a good time. Alice didn't really want to attend because the hostess was a snob, who more than once had looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was a single parent and not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa. But having already RSVP'd she could not think of a believable excuse to stay home. The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper-crust, old south. And to Alice's horror the cake in question was presented for the dessert. Alice felt the blood drain from her body. When she saw the cake she started to get out of her chair to rush to tell the hostess about it. But before she could get to her feet the mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful cake." Alice who was still stunned and trying to formulate what words she would

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use to explain the situation. She sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess who was a prominent church member say, “Thank you! I baked it myself.” Alice smiled and thought to herself “There is a God!”

We’re studying the book of James. We’re in study number 2, growth is stunted by sin. These two lessons are so critical to really understanding how God works in our lives and what some explanations would be for reasons of difficulty. We talked together last week about growing taller through testing. That God uses trials and adversities in various kinds of problems to help us grow and to mature in Christ. We call it a test. It’s not something we like, it’s something we’d like to avoid. But God is the author of it for the purpose of making us more like His Son.

I want you to hear from Charles Spurgeon and then the *Daily Bread* yesterday was just fabulous.

“Perhaps, O tried soul, the Lord is doing this to develop thy graces. There are some of thy graces which would never be discovered if it were not for thy trials. . . . Afflictions are often the black foils in which God doth set the jewels of his children's graces, to make them shine the better. . . . Depend upon it, God often sends us trials that our graces may be discovered, and that we may be certified of their existence. Besides, it is not merely discovery, real growth in grace is the result of sanctified trials.”

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Then this statement that began *Daily Bread* yesterday morning:

**“While giving a sermon, missionary Hudson Taylor filled a glass with water and placed it on the table in front of him. As he was speaking he pounded his fist hard enough to make the water splash onto the table. He then explained, ‘you will come up against much trouble but when you do, remember only what’s in you will spill out.’”** Then *Daily Bread* ended: **“When trouble grows your character shows.”**

**God operates on that principle. Then the next time you’re blindsided with an unpredictable, unexpected circumstance, don’t start looking inward and trying to figure out why you deserve that. That’s the furthest and most foreign thing to good Biblical theology that you can find. Rather, look inward and immediately not say why, but ask what. What is it that I am to learn and how am I to grow from this experience?**

**We got down to the end of verse 12 and we broke there because today we’re picking up at verse 13 and we’re moving down to verse 18.**

**Our key verse today is verse 15. Whereas we grow taller through our testings, we’re paralyzed and stunted by sin. How do you tell the difference between a test and a temptation? Well, it’s real easy. The test comes from God and the temptation comes from Satan. The test comes**

from God, to strengthen you in your faith and your pursuit of growing into Christlikeness.

The temptation comes by the devil and it's formulated to your weaknesses and desires, to destroy you to keep you carnal. As long as he can keep you living in the flesh and not in the Spirit, you're not making any progress at all toward spiritual maturity. And he knows that. So he orchestrates temptation.

Temptation, the way you can tell the difference, is something you're going to like. It's something you want. Testing you don't want. You don't like it. It hurts. It's painful. You wish you never had to go through it. Now you can tell the difference. One is for destruction and the other is for development. When you resist the temptation you also grow in strength every time you say no. When you submit to the test, you also mature and grow in your relationship with the Lord. Let's jump right into the text because it's loaded with some things that we need to look at together.

**v.13 Let no man say when he is being tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; [Reason] for God cannot be tempted to do evil, and He Himself is tempting no one.**

What he's saying right at the start is God has nothing to do with temptation. He's not in the business of trying to make you fail. Satan is the only one that wants to do that. He wants you to fail in ever receiving Christ as

Savior, that's his number one program so you'll spend eternity in hell. But secondly, after you become a Christian, he wants to distract you and keep you focused on personal desires so much that you never get serious about your walk with God and begin to grow in Him. That's what we call temptation.

It's awfully easy when you're tempted to look around for somebody to blame. I don't hear many people blame Satan for it. They are blaming others. Doing whatever they can rather than accepting reality that temptation comes straight from the evil one.

Let's go back to Genesis for a second. Genesis 3 we've got Satan slithering into the garden with Eve and discussing the whole matter of fruit and doubting God's goodness. The attractiveness of the fruit, Eve surrenders in weakness, eats the fruits and gives some to her husband. That decision involved bringing everybody in the world that followed them, born into the world in sin.

### Romans 5:12

“Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin and so death passed upon all men.”

So right at the very beginning of time we see it. James is going to tell us further in chapter 4:1 when we get there, from what source do conflicts and quarrels among you come? Do they not come from this, namely your passions which are struggling within your members?

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**v.14 But [instead of blaming God for it] each one is being tempted when he is taken in tow and lured by his own desires.**

James makes it clear that it is the desires that are resident within us that Satan knows about, that he orchestrates the temptation to coordinate with the desires, the fruition of sin is death. I want you to listen to Jesus for just a minute.

### Matthew 15:18

But the things that come out of a man's mouth come from his heart and his mind, and it is they that really make a man 'unclean,'. For it is from a man's mind that evil thoughts arise, murder, adultery, lust, theft, perjury and blasphemy. These are the things which make a man 'unclean.'"

Jeremiah the prophet bemoans the fact in:

### Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know me?

Charles Spurgeon describes David's experience with Bathsheba to give you an illustration of how devastating temptation can be.

**At that hour, David saw Bathsheba. We are never out of [touch or out of] reach of temptation. Both at home and abroad we are liable to meet allurements with evil. The morning opens with peril and the shades of evening find us still in jeopardy.**

**Further down in that paragraph Spurgeon made a statement that folks take for granted.**

**Idleness and luxury are the devil's jackels and finds him abundant prey in stagnant waters. Noxious creatures swarm and neglected soil soon yields a dense tangle of weeds and briars. Oh for the constraining love of Jesus to keep us active and useful.**

**I know it sounds wonderful to retire and to have your own schedule and to live in luxury. Those are the targets that Satan loves the most. You and I need to realize if we are getting disengaged and dis-involved, we are literally sitting ducks and he loves to distract and to destroy us because we hate botched up priorities.**

**I trust that you'll realize the seriousness of this warfare. You'll not try to minimize it. You'll not to think that James is weird. You'll not think at all that he's overstating it one bit. But the seriousness of it is very, very major priority for us to think about today.**

**Temptation is all around us. It's destroying marriages, it's ruining homes. Satan is clapping his hands with glee**



so don't tell me I'm irrelevant today. This is a serious matter. I believe Satan realizes his time is short and he's letting it all hang out. He is complicating lives as much as he possibly can, destroying marriages, families, and witness for Christ. I think the major targets are people who are in ministry who are making a difference. They are personal targets for some of his most severe weapons.

**Spurgeon continues:**

Very earnestly, therefore, should we avoid temptation seeking to walk so guardedly in the path of obedience that we may never tempt the devil to tempt us. [I love this next statement.] We are not to enter the thicket in search of the lion. [He's like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.] Dearly might we pay for such presumption. This lion may cross our path or leap upon us from the thicket but we have nothing to do with hunting him. He that meeteth with him even though he winneth the day will find it a stern struggle. Let the Christian pray that he may be spared the encounter. Our Savior who had experienced all of what temptation meant thus earnestly admonished his disciples. Pray that you enter not into temptation.

Now why is temptation such an alluring factor? He always comes with three factors:

1. The pleasure of it.

**2. You're going to get away with it. There's always that supposition that comes with it. Nobody will know about it. You're going to get away with it.**

**3. You're not going to get hurt by it.**

**All of them are lies straight from the pit. Many times our eyes are opened after the experience has proved successful for Satan himself. Every man is tempted when he's drawn away of his own lusts and intoxicated.**

**It's the pleasure of the moment and he's studied your game plays. He knows you well. He knows your tendencies and your weaknesses so he plays to those to the hilt trying to get you to sin and to get distracted.**

**Many times it's that way in our lives. The picture here is a picture of a fish swimming along in a school and he sees a flashing lure over here and a wounded bait. He detours his course away from the school and begins to follow the attraction. Before long he's hooked and fried. That's the picture that James is describing. Bringing this fish out of cover and out of course, making a decision out of desire to choose to do this.**

**Sin is something that you desire. So you respond. It takes two to tango. You've got to have Satan's mind and your mind in coordination to actually yield to temptation. Now if you want to play that game you're**

going to be the loser. He's always the winner by what he orchestrates.

There's a wonderful verse of Scripture that we should all be familiar with from the very beginning. It's 1 Corinthians 10:13. I would suggest that this message finds lodging in your heart. Write this verse on a card and put it on your mirror so you see it every morning for the next number of months.

### 1 Corinthians 10:13

13 "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

Oh there's comfort in that. What I'm facing today is not any different than what somebody else and they were victorious by saying no. I'm not alone!

I understand that God understands what I'm going through. And He's telling me that I have the resources in the power of the Spirit to have victory in this situation if I'll just appropriate what I have. Then it tells me not only that, but He'll also give me a back door of escape if I am willing to say no and take it. Sometimes that's the hardest thing to do. Just to say no, this is not right. I refuse. I turn my back. I want to tell you, the minute you turn your back, it's been my experience, that you have

the greatest joy you've ever had in your life. It just comes flooding in. Whether it's a sexual temptation, whether it's monetary or it's compromising of your convictions in a thing when you know it's not right and you say no and you stand. There is a flood of joy that just overwhelms you at that moment and the next time it comes along you're going to better at it because you said no once.

But when you say yes once it also becomes easier to say yes twice, then three, and four and five. Till you're a drug addict and an alcoholic. I mean, those are the kinds of things that the devil knows. The more he gets you to cooperate with his plan the more chance he has of your ultimate destiny residing in his hands.

Listen to Karl Meninger's statement "When a trout rising to a fly gets hooked on a line and finds himself unable to swim about freely, he begins with a fight, which results in struggles and splashes and sometimes an escape but often, of course, the situation is too tough for him." That's the warning. By a miracle you might dodge the hook once, but there will come a time when all of your energy's been exhausted to try to get off the hook and you are fried.

Verse 15 is our key verse. Are you there with me?

**v.15 Then when the desire has conceived, it is giving birth to sin; and this sin when it has run its course, brings forth death.**

Now he's moved from the fishing to the birthing process. When desires are joined you have conception. Out of conception you wait for the birth. When the birth comes you're supposed to have life. But when you're messing with Satan and temptation you get death. What a picture! The sadness of death and everything blown up as a result of buying into his system. *"When the desire has conceived."* You've had union. You've had birth. The result of that is death not life.

Now Scripture says that in a lot of places.

Romans 6:23 is probably the best.

Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men for all have sinned.

The will joins with it and as a result of that, you give birth to that which brings death.

Annie Dillard wrote a book called *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. She won a Pulitzer Prize for her writings. I want

to read just a little story because this story just tells you exactly what you have in verse 15.

**(Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard) New York, N.Y.**

A couple of summers ago I was walking along the edge of the island to see what I could see in the water, and mainly to scare frogs. Frogs have an inelegant way of taking off from invisible positions on the bank just ahead of your feet, in dire panic, emitting a froggy “Yike!” and splashing into the water. Incredibly, this amused me, and, incredible, it amuses me still. As I walked along the grassy edge of the island, I got better and better at seeing frogs both in and out of the water. I learned to recognize, slowing down, the difference in texture of the light reflected from mudbank, water, grass, or frog. Frogs were flying all around me. At the end of the island I noticed a small green frog. He was exactly half in and half out of the water, looking like a schematic diagram of an amphibian, and he didn’t jump.

He didn’t jump; I crept closer. At last I knelt on the island’s winterkilled grass, lost, dumbstruck, staring at the frog in the creek just four feet away. He was a very small frog with wide, dull eyes. And just as I looked at him, he slowly crumpled and began to sag. The spirit vanished from his eyes as if snuffed. His skin emptied and dropped; his very skull seemed to collapse and settle like a kicked in tent. He was shrinking before my eyes, like a deflating football. I watched the taunt, glistening skin on his shoulders ruck, and rumple, and fall. Soon,

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part of his skin, formless as a pricked balloon, lay in floating folds like bright scum on top of the water; it was a monstrous and terrifying thing. I gaped bewildered, appalled. An oval shadow hung in the water behind the drained frog; then the shadow glided away. The frog skin bag started to sink.

I had read about the giant water bug, but never seen one. “Giant water bug” is really the name of the creature which is an enormous, heavy-bodied brown beetle. It eats insects, tadpoles, fish, and frogs. Its grasping forelegs are mighty and hooked inward. It seizes a victim with these legs, hugs it tight, and paralyzes it with enzymes injected during a vicious bite. That one bite is the all the bite it ever takes. Through the puncture shoot the poisons that dissolve the victim’s muscles and bones and organs—all but the skin—and through it the giant water bug sucks out the victim’s body, reduced to a juice. This event is quite common in warm fresh water. The frog I saw was being sucked by a giant water bug. I had been kneeling on the island grass; when the unrecognizable flap of frog skin settled on the creek bottom, swaying, I stood up and brushed the knees of my pants. I couldn’t catch my breath.

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There is nothing more descriptive of Satan wanting to latch on. Puncture you and dissolve all your dreams and ambitions and your hopes and drain you dead on the bottom of some scum-filled lake.

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The process of temptation has to come by the breaking of the will. Then doing it over and over again makes it easier and easier and Satan uses that to bring about death. You say, well I thought I was saved eternally. You are. There is a sin unto death and that's the sin when you just keep on yielding to temptation. The Lord will finally blow the whistle and call you home in physical death even though you're a believer. It is a serious matter.

He says so.

**v.16 Stop being deceived, my brethren, [Don't play his game! Don't get into his field. Don't go looking for the lion in the thicket] beloved ones.**

I want more for you than all of this.

Proverbs 5:3 says:

For the lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb and her mouth is smoother than oil but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

Recognize it and recognize what happens and then turn your focus on verse 17. This is wonderful.



**v.17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there can be no change or shadow cast by variation.**

**James is saying, when the gifts come from the right source they're good and they're from God. What a treasure and a blessing when our lives are lined up to His purpose to be filled with gratitude over the good gifts that He gives us on a daily basis.**

**The greatest gift of all, we're so thankful: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."**

**2 Corinthians 9:15 Paul tells the Corinthians:**

**Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift, this gift beyond words, the Lord Jesus.**

**Romans 8:32**

**He that spared not his own son but delivered him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else.**

**John 10:28-29**

**I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish**

**He's the father of lights. He gives good news. The father of darkness is Satan himself. He's bent on taking**

everything that you're living for in the process of our yielding to temptation.

Beth Moore wrote a book called *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things: Arming Yourself in the Age of Seduction* and in it she says:

We don't have to be rocket scientists to figure out that Satan's favorite prey is a person of godly influence. Tangling with a roaring lion who is trying his hardest to devour you could constitute real and authentic suffering. In fact I have suffered more at the flesh ripping paws of the raging lion than anything else. I lived a measure of my young life in rebellion and in defeat but I can say without hesitation that the times the enemy came after me most furiously were not those times. During times of rebellion all the devil had to do is cheer me on and tell me to keep up the good work. The times in my life when I believe the powers of darkness raged most violently against me were seasons when I had never loved God more. I was not walking in sin previous to either of the times I fought my hardest battles with the kingdom of darkness. Satan waited until I had accrued a much better track record, had grown a little more confident in a consistent walk, and look suspiciously like God could make me look slightly dangerous then he hit me again. Hard. This time God said, "Have you had enough now, child?" And I said yes. "All right then, now I'm going to teach you how to fight."

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She concludes the chapter with one of my favorite writers, Charles Haddon Spurgeon:

**There is nothing that Satan can do for his evil cause that he does not do. We may be halfhearted, but he never is. He is the very image of ceaseless industry and untiring earnestness. He will do all that can be done in the time of his permitted rage. We may be sure that he will never lose a day.**

And Beth concludes her chapter by saying:

**Dear Body of Christ, it's time we put down the popguns of yesteryear's church. Satan is waging a worldwide nuclear war.**

**The intensity of his activity will only increase the closer we get to the end time.**

**v.18 According to His will, He brought us into being through the Word of truth, to the end that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.**

**We were brought into existence because of the “Word of truth.”**

**1 Peter 1:23**

**Being born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible by the word of God which lives and abides forever.**

**I've read the word, I understand the truth. In humility and brokenness I acknowledge my sin and invite the Lord Jesus Christ to come in and become my Savior. And out of that deepening relationship He deals with the things that offends Him and He shows the areas where I'm being tempted. The pathway of escape is provided so that I can learn to be victorious in my Christian walk.**

**As I conclude I'd like to share a little poem that will give you encouragement as it certainly has given me. The poem is titled "The Race" by D. H. Groberg:**

## **THE RACE**

### **I.**

**"Quit! Give up! You're beaten!"  
They shout at me and plead.  
"There's just too much against you now.  
This time you can't succeed!"**

**And as I start to hang my head  
In front of failure's face,  
My downward fall is broken by  
The memory of a race.**

**And hope refills my weakened will  
As I recall that scene;  
For just the thought of that short race**

**Rejuvenates my being.**

**II**

**A children's race—young boys, young men  
How I remember well.  
Excitement, sure! But also fear;  
It wasn't hard to tell.**

**They all lined up so full of hopes  
Each thought to win that race.  
or tie for first, or if not that,  
At least take second place.**

**And fathers watched from off the side,  
Each cheering for his son.  
And each boy hoped to show his dad  
That he would be the one.**

**The whistle blew and off they went!  
Young hearts and hopes afire.  
To win and be the hero there  
Was each young boy's desire.**

**And one boy in particular  
Whose dad was in the crowd,  
Was running near the lead and thought,  
“My dad will be so proud!”**

**But as they speeded down the field  
Across a shallow dip,  
The little boy who thought to win**

**Lost his step and slipped.**

**Trying hard to catch himself  
His hands flew out to brace,  
Amid the laughter of the crowd  
He fell flat on his face.**

**So down he fell and with him hope  
He couldn't win it now—  
Embarrassed, sad, he only wished  
To disappear somehow.**

**But as he fell his dad stood up  
And showed his anxious face,  
Which to the boy so clearly said:  
“Get up and win the race.”**

**He quickly rose, no damage done.  
Behind a bit, that's all—  
And ran with all his mind and might  
To make up for his fall.**

**So anxious to restore himself  
To catch up and to win—  
His mind went faster than his legs;  
He slipped and fell again!**

**He wished than he had quit before  
With only one disgrace.  
“I'm hopeless as a runner now;  
I shouldn't try to race.”**

**But in the laughing crowd he searched  
And found his father's face.  
That steady look which said again:  
“Get up and win the race!”**

**So up he jumped to try again  
Ten yards behind the last—  
“If I'm to gain those yards,” he thought,  
“I've got to move real fast.”**

**Exerting everything he had  
He gained eight or ten  
But trying so hard to catch the lead  
He slipped and fell again!**

**Defeat! He lay there silently  
A tear dropped from his eye—  
“There's no sense running any more:  
Three strikes: I'm out! Why try?”**

**The will to rise had disappeared  
All hope had fled away;  
So far behind, so error prone;  
A loser all the way.**

**“I've lost, so what's the use,” he thought.  
“I'll live with my disgrace.”  
But then he thought about his dad  
Who soon he'd have to face.**

**“Get up,” an echo sounded low.  
“Get up and take your place.”  
You were not meant for failure here.  
Get up and win the race.”**

**“With borrowed will, get up,” he said,  
“You haven’t lost at all,  
For winning is no more than this:  
To rise each time you fall.”**

**So up he rose to run once more,  
And with a new commit  
He resolved that win or lose  
At least he wouldn’t quit.**

**So far behind the others now,  
The most he’d ever been—  
Still he gave it all he had  
And ran as though to win.**

**Three times he’d fallen, stumbling;  
Three times he rose again;  
Too far behind to hope to win  
He still ran to the end.**

**They cheered the winning runner  
As he crossed the line first place,  
Head high, and proud, and happy;  
No falling, no disgrace.**

**But when the fallen youngster**



**Crossed the line in last place,  
The crowd gave him the greater cheer  
For finishing the race.**

**And even though he came in last  
With head bowed low, unproud,  
You would have thought he'd won the  
Race to listen to the crowd.**

**And to his dad he sadly said,  
"I didn't do so well."  
"To me, you won," his father said.  
"You rose each time you fell."**

### **III**

**And now when things seem dark and hard  
and difficult to face,  
The memory of that little boy  
Helps me in my own race.**

**For all of life is like that race,  
With ups and downs and all.  
And all you have to do to win,  
Is rise each time you fall.**

**"Quit! Give up! You're beaten!"  
They still shout in my face.  
But another voice within me says:  
"GET UP AND WIN THE RACE!"**

**Max Lucado describes a beautiful picture of arrival in heaven. In the back of the crowd there are some pierced hands that are going to applaud. Well done! It will be worth it all.**

## **CONCLUSION:**

**What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?**

**LESSON #1: Human nature tends to resist the test and respond to the temptation and God desires the reverse.**

**LESSON #2: You won't like the test but you will the temptation.**

**LESSON #3: Temptation does not find its source with the Father.**

**LESSON #4: Temptation brings forth death.**

**LESSON #5: Tests come as you struggle and temptations as you are successful.**

# A Practical Study of JAMES: The Battle of Our Behavior

**“Addressing the Tough Issues and Learning to Live It”**

**Key Verse 1:15 — *“But let patience be having its complete work, in order that you may be fully developed and complete, lacking in nothing.”***

## STUDY NUMBER TWO – GROWTH IS STUNTED BY SIN — JAMES 1:13-18

### **KEY VERSE 1:15**

**v.13** Let no man say when he is being tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted to do evil, and He Himself is tempting no one.

**v.14** But each one is being tempted when he is taken in tow and lured by his own desires.

**v.15** Then when the desire has conceived, it is giving birth to sin; and this sin when it has run its course, brings forth death.

**v.16** Stop being deceived, my brethren, beloved ones.

**v.17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there can be no change or shadow cast by variation.

**v.18** According to His will, He brought us into being through the Word of truth, to the end that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

### NOTES

### QUESTIONS:

**1. Read James 1:13-18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.**

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**2. What does verse 13 say about temptation as far as God is concerned?**

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**3. How is a man tempted, according to verse 14?**

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**4. What two things happen, according to verse 15, when we yield to temptation?**

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**5. What does James ask us to do in verse 16?**

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**6. Where do the “good gifts” come from, according to verse 17?**

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**7. What does verse 17 tell us about God?**

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**8. What did God use, according to verse 18, to bring us to Himself?**

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**9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**

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**10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

**What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?**

**LESSON #1: Human nature tends to resist the test and respond to the temptation and God desires the reverse.**

**LESSON #2: You won't like the test but you will the temptation.**

**LESSON #3: Temptation does not find its source with the Father.**

**LESSON #4: Temptation brings forth death.**

**LESSON #5: Tests come as you struggle and temptations as you are successful.**

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**