

2. Overcoming Temptation

James 1:13-18

- Trials/temptation - same Greek word. Implies that the same circumstances can be a trial or a temptation, depending on how we react.
- Each situation has two doors: "God's way to victory" and "Satan's way to defeat".
- If we don't count trials as joy and an opportunity to grow (vs 2-3) they can become temptations.

1. Take Responsibility (vs 13-14)

- We see a refusal to take responsibility everywhere – it goes back to Adam and Eve.
- Maybe we don't see ourselves as sinners – but Jesus says that if He isn't at the centre of our lives, we've already broken the most important commandment.
- We can blame God for our sin directly: "after all, he's in control of everything!"
- Or we can blame him indirectly: i. by blaming our circumstances/past or ii. by calling our desires 'needs'.
- But it's always possible to say no. One of Satan's key strategies is to make us think otherwise.

2. Break the Downward Spiral (vs 14-15)

- Sin is a whirlpool. If we paddle around the edges it will suck us in and drag us down.
- To be tempted isn't sin – Jesus was tempted and so can sympathise with us (Heb 4:15)
- If you're not a Christian you can't choose not to sin – only which way you'll sin.
- vs 14-15 describe the way sin works:
desire/thought ⇒ indulging the thought ⇒ action ⇒ death/judgment
- Breaking the cycle:
 - Realise that Christians can say no to sin.
 - Fight at the earliest stages - the further in you go the harder it is to stop.
 - Challenge your desires/thinking – don't indulge them
 - See temptation in light of the Cross - Jesus went down into the whirlpool on your behalf – are you going to paddle beside it again?
 - Realise you are not alone - "Because Jesus suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Heb 2:18)

3. Cling to the Goodness of God (vs 16-18)

- Satan's lie is to tell us that God isn't good or that He doesn't love us. Don't be deceived (v16).
- God is your Father and all good things come from Him. He won't change (v17).
- God's goodness seen in the fact that he's given you new life (v18).
- You're not longer a slave to sin – you don't have to obey Satan anymore.
- Firstfruits: Each time you chose to resist temptation – that's a foretaste of Heaven.

Sunday 29th April '12

Notices

Sunday	Evening service at Day Centre - Prayer time	8pm
Tues	Prayer time at Mark & Judith's	8pm
Wed	Bible study at Eithne's	10.30am
	Study 8 in Proverbs book - The Art of Living	

May

Sat 12	Ladies are invited to Breakfast with Catherine Campbell in Faughan RP church Theme: Positively Precious - Discovering what you are really worth	9.30am
Sun 27	Bready Praise Service "Running the Race - how God's song-book keeps us on track."	7pm

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

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