

## THE CAUSES OF TEMPTATION AND WRONG DOING

James 4:1-6

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Everybody messes up and does wrong things because of temptation. What causes all this mess? Before one can overcome his/her temptations and trials, he/she has to understand what causes them in the first place.

### I. THE DESIRE (LUST) FOR PLEASURE AND GRATIFICATION

1. James 4:1
2. There is a constant warfare within each person, a craving, yearning, pulling, urging, desiring and grasping after whatever will satisfy/gratify one's pleasure.
  - Food and more food, drink and more drink, sex and more sex, possessions and more possessions, money and more money, property and more property, and so on and so on.
3. The result of mankind's constant "lust" is fightings and wars.
  - Peace is the greatest need of mankind.
  - Peace is not what exists between men and men or between men and God.
4. There is a difference between "desire" and "lust."
  - Desiring the necessities of life is good and God will provide those things.
  - Greed (lust) is the consummation of desires that are good for one's own personal gratification.

### II. DISTRUST IN GOD

1. James 4:2
2. Desires are not met because one does not trust or depend upon God to fulfill what is wanted.
  - When God is ignored or denied, desires run loose and wild.
  - When God is shoved aside, man begins to do whatever he/she can to fulfill desires.
3. There are different lives of desires and lusts.
  - Some desire and do little if nothing to fulfill their deepest desires and just "wish..."
  - Some desire so much that they lie, steal, cheat to have what they desire.
  - Some desire so much that they are willing to go fight, go to war, even kill to have what they desire.
  - Romans 1:21-32; Ephesians 2:3; 1 John 2:15
4. There are several reasons why trusting and calling upon God is necessary to have desires fulfilled:
  - Man's deepest and most restless craving is actually spiritual, but is not realized at that time.
  - Man's spiritual desires and cravings cannot be satisfied with physical or material things.
  - Man is not able to control his desires, not completely, not always.
  - Man must learn to walk and talk with God, seeking and asking HIS opinion, His will, and His help all the time.
  - Romans 6:11-13; 8:13; Galatians 5:24; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:15-17; Psalm 37:3; Proverbs 3:5-6

### III. PRAYING WRONGLY

1. James 4:3
2. Most often prayer is made for things that will be used to gratify personal lust and pleasure.
  - Money to have more, success to be recognized, position to hold authority, health to go more.
3. Anything that would glorify God is the right motive for prayer.
  - Asking for health, must be in order to give God glory with one's life.
  - Asking for mobility, to be able to be active, must be in order to glorify God in what is done.
  - Asking for the basic necessities of life or advancements in life must be in order to glorify God with one's life and testimony.
  - Matthew 6:31-33; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

### IV. WORLDLINESS - FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD

1. James 4:4
2. In God's eyes, His family, being friends with the world is the same as committing ADULTERY.
  - God's family is called the "bride of Christ" and to be friends with the world is to violate the bond that exists between the believer and Christ, thus "spiritual adultery."
  - Violating the "marriage" bond with Christ is to turn away from God and turn to such things as: money, possessions, lands, houses, position, cars, power, clothes, popularity, honor, fame, recognition, etc.
  - Spiritual adultery is:
    - Not obeying the commandments of the Lord.
    - Worshiping other gods.
    - Unclean works and sinful behavior.
    - Giving oneself to detestable and abominable things.
    - Forgetting God and turning one's back on Him.
    - Refusing to turn to God and not knowing the Lord.
    - Forsaking God.
    - Disbelief in Christ.
    - Being ashamed of Christ and His Words.
3. Friendship with the world is:
  - Living for this world and the things of the world - houses, lands, money, position, anything that shifts focus from God.
  - The person who is a friend of the world focuses upon the world and not God, is an enemy of God.
  - Matthew 6:24; 16:26; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; Colossians 3:2; Matthew 15:8; Romans 8:7-8

### CONCLUSION:

1. James 4:5-6
2. The cure for temptation and wrongdoing among God's family :
  - Believers must realize that the Spirit of God is jealous over them and yearns for Godly trust in their hearts and lives.

- Believers must realize that God gives much more than what is needed when they depend upon Him instead of themselves and the world to supply their needs.
3. God has to stand against the sinner and his/her evil, whether it be one of His own children or an unbeliever.
    - Anyone who turns to God away from the world and his/her wrongdoing will receive all the grace from God that he/she will ever need and then some.
  4. Luke 14:11; Hebrews 4:16; Romans 8:9-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:19