

WHERE DO TEMPTATIONS COME FROM

James 1:13-18

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Where in the world do temptations come from? Sometimes the desire and craving for things are almost unbearable. Temptation is the desire and craving for the wrong things. Why are there so many trials? How did all these things ever get started?

I. TEMPTATION IS NOT OF GOD

1. People are always blaming others for tempting them and leading them into sin and very seldom take the responsibility for their own wrong-doing. "It's not my fault...etc.."
 - Man blames woman and woman blames man.
 - Spouse blames spouse.
 - Children blame their parents and parents blame their children.
 - The student blames the teacher and the teacher blames the school and the parent.
 - Employer blames the employee and the employee blames the employer.
 - Nobody ever wants to take the blame for yielding to temptation..(The Devil made me do it...)
2. People try to justify their behavior and to quieten their conscience by blaming everybody their own self, even blaming God.
 - Why me? Why did God let such a thing as this happen to me?
 - God made me like I am, so it's all His fault and so He understands why I am like I am.
 - God made everything, therefore it is all for our using and enjoyment.
3. God cannot be tempted with evil.
 - To tempt a person is an evil thing to do and by His very nature, God cannot have anything to do with evil or temptation.
4. God does not tempt any person - ever.
 - God loves, cares for and seeks to save all people, not to destroy any of them.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-3; 1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 2:9; Psalms 99:9; 145-17

II. TEMPTATION IS OF SATAN AND PEOPLE, NO OTHER SOURCES

1. Every person, without exception is drawn away by lust and other enticements.
 - "lust" is to crave either good or evil.
 - "entice" is to lure away.
 - The problem arises when a thing is forbidden or harmful.
 - To dwell upon or pay attention to the forbidden or harmful thing is how sin is conceived.
2. The birth of sin happens when a person begins to WANT the forbidden or harmful thing. Although he/she may never do the act, he/she would if the courage and chance were there.
 - Matthew 5:28; Mark 4:19; Romans 1:26-27; Galatians 5:16-17; James 4:1-4; 1 Peter 2:11
3. The result of lust and enticement is death: physically, spiritually, and eternally.
 - When a person thinks about anything long enough, the chances are that in the end he/she will eventually do it. Desire in the heart in the end brings forth sin in the action.

III. TEMPTATION IS NOT OF GOD'S NATURE

1. God is good and perfect. He does not tempt people. He is the ONE who gives people every good and perfect gift.
 - Psalm 18:30; Ecclesiastes 3:14; Matthew 5:48; Psalm 25:8; 34:8
2. God is the Father of lights and He is unchangeable.
 - Temptation leads people into darkness of guilt, shame, disappointment and hurt.
 - God is perfect light and seeks to lead people from darkness into His light.
 - Psalm 27:1; 84:11; Micah 7:8; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 22:5; Luke 11:13; John 10:28
3. God wills only to see people born again.
 - Any word of error is not of God.
 - Humanistic and false teaching about truth are not of God.
 - Every human being shall die, but it is God's will that people be born again and made new.
 - John 1:12-13; 3:3-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23

CONCLUSION:

1. Temptation is not a sin.
2. It is up to each person to push the forbidden thought out of his/her mind and turn his/her body away and run from the temptation.
3. God does not tempt people.
4. It is human nature to seek to blame everyone else, including God whenever one yields to temptation.
5. God is determined to bring mankind out of the darkness of guilt, etc. into the light of joy, love, and peace.