



The Pathology of Temptation

James 1:13-16

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

1. You will be tempted

2. God does not tempt you but you are tempted because of your strong desires

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

3. If you don't control your lusts they will give birth to sin

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin...

Romans 13:14

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

2 Peter 1:5-7

⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1 Timothy 4:7

...On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

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.

4. Sin brings death

...and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

5. Don't be deceived about temptation

Conclusion

- 1) Everyone is going to be tempted
- 2) Temptation follows a pattern or pathology
- 3) Sin always brings death
- 4) Our best line of defense is in controlling our strong desires in the power of the Spirit
- 5) We can always choose God's way of escape