

Don't Blame God

10-26-25

James 1:13 (ESV)

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and HE himself tempts no one.

God never initiates evil to tempt us. God has nothing to do with evil. It doesn't have any appeal to HIM. Yet bad things do tempt us, and we often do bad things. James explains why we should never blame God.

James 1:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

It is not God who tempts us but our own desire. It comes from within. Desire in itself is not sin. It is only when a person, by an act of the will, assents to its enticement that sin results. James lays out our slippery slope to the devastation sin.

- 1) Evil temptation is when we are lured and enticed by our own desire. Temptation, the awareness of desire, is not sin. Some people**

think every time they are tempted that they have sinned. NO! They have just become aware of the possibility to sin

- 2) When our desire is conceived, being pondered, rolled around in our head, we are feeding the beast but haven't engaged in the damage of sin. We may have sinned in our heart, but we have not physically sinned. Good time to confess to God.**
- 3) When action is initiated to accomplish our desire, we give birth to sin. The Damage is Done. We can confess and be forgiven, but the damage is done.**
- 4) When we nurture our sin, we become our sin, bringing full grown devastation. Example: We can steal and be forgiven, but when we continue to steal, we are known by the name thief, and it becomes our identity.**

God is not to blame. We only have ourselves to blame. Scripture gives us clear examples.

Achan explained why he sinned to Joshua.

Joshua 7:21 (ESV) NO/OH

When I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak, and silver, and a bar of gold, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent.”

I saw – desire – tempted

I coveted – conceived

I took – action taken

I hid – birth/full possession/destruction. They stoned to death Achan and his family.

David a man after God’s own heart falls after taking the same steps into sin.

2 Samuel 11:1–4 (ESV) NO)/OH

David was walking on the roof of the king’s house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.

He saw – desire – tempted

He inquired – conceived

He took – action taken

He lay with her – birth/full possession/destruction

David suffered disastrous consequences.

Don't blame God when we fall into evil. God is not the author of evil. *Instead of sending temptation, God is the giver of "every good and perfect gift."* Nothing but good comes from God.

James 1:16-17 (NCV)

My dear brothers and sisters, do not be fooled about this. Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows.

Rather than acting destructively, God acts constructively. God is perfect. HIS actions and gifts are perfect. Scriptural Truth!

James 1:18 (ESV)

Of HIS own will God brought us forth by the WORD of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of HIS creatures.

God by HIS own deliberate choice gave us life through HIS Word so we might be the most important thing HE ever created. The term "firstfruits" comes from the OT which referred to the first portion of the harvest given to God.

They would take a bundle of the harvest and wave it before God. This firstfruit was a picture of the harvest that God was going to abundantly produce. Through us HIS firstfruits, God purposely sets his re-creation, HIS kingdom into motion. We are the first ripe fruit of God's new creation, promising the full harvest to come.

Application. Look at your own situation. God is good! By God's own will and desire, HE gave you life by the Word of truth, so that HE could give you every good and perfect gift.

Why? God has a glorious purpose for us.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.