

## REFUSING TEMPTATION

James 1:12-15

Blessed is the man that endureth the solicitation of evil (temptation): For when he is tried he shall receive the (victors) crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him.

Let no man when he is solicited with evil or (tempted) say I am tempted of God: For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man with evil.

A man is tempted or solicited with evil when he is drawn away, or baited away by his own (lust) ,forbidden desires, and (enticed),tricked, and trapped.

And when lust or our forbidden desires hath conceived and given birth to sin it is then fully matured; and captures, seizes, and takes full control over us; it then brings forth death. This death can be spiritual death or a physical death.

In the next verse James says do not err or be misled my brethren. Where do we err? If you look in Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. This tree was a representation of the world and the world's system which has been forbidden by God. The word evil here in Hebrew means- bad, calamity, adversity, affliction, distress, grief, harm, sorrow, trouble, and wickedness. Therefore god knew that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil consisted of these things, and would sever the spiritual law that was then in effect (The Law of Life). In Genesis 3:1 the Bible says now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field that God had made. And he (Satan) said unto the women, can it really be that God said you shall not eat from every tree of the garden?

And the women said unto the serpent we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden God said ye shall not eat of it neither shall ye touch it lest ye die.

And the serpent began to solicit and entice Eve with evil, he had her attention and her interests as she began to entertain the thought, and therefore she had been drawn away from her own lust or desire to partake in what is forbidden by God. Satan began to beguile her in order to entrap her into sin. Then he began to further twist the word of God saying ye shall not die.

For God knows that in the day ye eat of it your eyes will be opened and ye will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil. We know from Eve's statement earlier that she already knew the difference between good and evil, but through her own inquisitiveness Satan was able to tap into her

area of weakness and her desire for more that he was able to trap her into sin, with her help. Satan is not all knowing or all seeing he plays off of our own words and behaviors and uses it against us.

What Eve failed to realize was that her spiritual eyes were already opened and Satan's tactic was to get her to operate in the natural. Stripping her away from how God intended her to live ( in full spiritual authority), therefore Satan would be able to have full authority over her because she was operating in the natural realm that she was not created to operate in. Once we are in the natural realm Satan has advantage over us. The next verse we see the women operating in her natural senses. And when the women SAW (Sight) that the tree was good for food (Taste) and that it was delightful to look at and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise she took of its fruit and she gave one to her husband and he ate. We see that Eve had been tempted with evil being drawn away from her own desire and lust, and once that desire hath conceived or taking captive it seized her and brought forth spiritual death. Both of their eyes were opened to that which was natural, they knew that they were naked they had stepped outside of their spiritual covering and decided to cover themselves with something natural, condemnation began to set in and they began to operate in the mindset and law of unrighteousness. We often times allow ourselves to be entangled with the mindset of this world rather it be from things of our past, addictions, relationships, fame or anything in our lives that are against God's best for us. We allow those things to rekindle an interest in us, and we begin to flirt with those things, compromising our spiritual wellbeing. God has made a way of escape for us and we don't have to harbor feelings of unworthiness, unrighteousness, and guilt. In II Corinthians 6:17 It simply asks us to come out from among the law of sin and death (by faith) and be ye separate sayeth the Lord and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you. For we have been sanctified, set apart, and made clean through Jesus Christ. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15 Love not thy world neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. This simply means to put God first and seek his way of doing things. For all that is in the world is the lust of the flesh- Being driven by our own selfish desires, the lust of the eyes- Doing what is seemingly right in our own sight, and the pride of life- Life without a savior. These things are of the World.

So let us embrace Jesus today refusing to compromise with Satan and his tactics. Let us walk in liberty operating in a full spiritual authority on this earth. Don't allow Satan to ensnare or entrap you anymore. God has given us spiritual eyes to see the life that he has for us. One of Satan's biggest tools is getting us to be an ally in his kingdom against ourselves.

Pray this prayer with me. Dear Jesus I surrender my life to you I thank you for being my Lord and Savior. I thank you for your shed blood that has covered all my sins; I thank you for giving me the strength to endure any temptation that may come my way as you direct me in everything that I do, Amen.