



The Book of James: Chapter 1:13-18

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal greater depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight. Let these words from your heart change the way we look at you, ourselves and the world around us!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.</p> <p>¹⁶ So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. ¹⁸ He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. (James 1:13–18 NLT-SE)</p>	<p>¹³ 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. 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.</p> <p>¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. (James 1:13–18 ESV)</p>	<p>¹³ When you are tempted don’t ever say, “God is tempting me,” for God is incapable of being tempted by evil and he is never the source of temptation. ¹⁴ Instead it is each person’s own desires and thoughts that drag them into evil and lure them away into darkness. ¹⁵ Evil desires give birth to evil actions. And when sin is fully mature it can murder you!</p> <p>¹⁶ So my friends, don’t be fooled by your own desires! ¹⁷ Every gift God freely gives us is good and perfect, streaming down from the Father of lights, who shines from the heavens with no hidden shadow or darkness and is never subject to change. ¹⁸ God was delighted to give us birth by the truth of his infallible Word so that we would fulfill his chosen destiny for us and become the favorite ones out of all his creation! (James 1:13–18 PAS)</p>

– KEY WORDS:

- **Tempt** ~ v. 13, 14
 - GK G4279 | S G3985 *peirazō* 38x
 - to make proof or trial of, put to the proof, whether with good or mischievous intent, Mt. 16:1; 22:35; absol. to attempt, Acts 16:7; 24:6; in NT to tempt, Mt. 4:1; to try, subject to trial, 1 Cor. 10:13 → attempt; tempt; test; try.
- **Evil** ~ v. 13
 - GK G2805 | S G2556 *kakos* 50x
 - bad, of a bad quality or disposition, worthless, corrupt, depraved, Mt. 21:41; 24:48; Mk. 7:21; wicked, criminal, morally bad; τὸ κακόν, evil, wickedness, crime, Mt. 27:23; Acts 23:9; deceitful, 1 Pet. 3:10; mischievous, harmful, destructive; τὸ κακόν, evil mischief, harm, injury, Tit. 1:12; afflictive; τὸ κακόν, evil, misery, affliction, suffering, Lk. 16:25 → bad; evil; wicked, wickedness; wrong.

- **Desire** ~ v. 14, 15
 - GK G2123 | S G1939 *epithumia* 38x
 - earnest desire, Lk. 22:15; irregular or violent desire, Mk. 4:19; spc. impure desire, lust, Rom. 1:24; met. the object of desire, what enkindles desire, 1 Jn. 2:16, 17 → desire; lust.
- **Sin** ~ v. 15
 - GK G281 | S G266 *hamartia* 173x
 - error; offence, sin, Mt. 1:21; a principle or cause of sin, Rom. 7:7; proneness to sin, sinful propensity, Rom. 7:17, 20; guilt or imputation of sin, Jn. 9:41; Heb. 9:26; a guilty subject, sin-offering, expiatory victim, 2 Cor. 5:21 → sin.
- **Shadow** ~ v. 17
 - GK G684 | S G644 *aposkiasma* 1x
 - a shadow cast; met. a shade, the slightest trace, Jas. 1:17*
- **Firstfruits** ~ v. 18
 - GK G569 | S G536 *aparchē* 9x
 - the first act of a sacrifice; hence, the firstfruits, first portion, firstling, Rom. 8:23 → firstfruits.

- **TEMPTATION...**

The essence of temptation is the invitation to live independently of God. ~ Neil T. Anderson

Sin gets its power by persuading me to believe that I will be happier if I follow it. The power of all temptation is the prospect that it will make me happier. ~ John Piper

When Christians find themselves exposed to temptation they should pray to God to uphold them, and when they are tempted they should not be discouraged. It is not a sin to be tempted; the sin is to fall into temptation. ~ Dwight L. Moody

One of the most serious threats to the human spirit is boredom. Boredom is the breeding ground for wickedness. Bored people are easy targets of the flesh and the Devil. It is like putting a bull's-eye on your chest with a sign: "Tempt me. I'm easy!" Why? Because boredom is contrary to the natural, God-given impulse for fascination, excitement, pleasure, and exhilaration. ~ Sam Storms

- **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- Do you ever get the feeling that God is tempting you to see if your profession of love and devotion are real? When the book of James says, "God tempts no one," yet you feel like you're being tempted by God, how do you explain the disconnect?
- If we are tempted by our own desire, "which entice us and drag us away," where do those desires likely originate? In this situation, what exactly do you think we might be being enticed and drug away from?
- What are some of the "gifts" we receive from above, from the Father of lights?
- God's unchangeableness is called his "immutability." Theologians say that immutability is a attribute of God's character. What comfort do you receive in knowing God doesn't change...that he cannot change?