

Fresh Surrender - Week 5

How to Handle Temptation Before It Handles You

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

- Remember, we've learned the mature believer is **patient** under trials.
 - Sometimes the testing and the trials come on the outside. Sometimes they come on the inside. Both can open the door to **temptation**.
 - Trials are tests sent by God to teach us to **overcome** and become spiritually mature.
 - Temptations come from Satan and **encourage** us to feed our sinful, fallen nature.

 - God desires to give us **good** gifts.
 - **Restoration** from sin is always God's process.
 - Giving into sin is also a **process**--- it does not just happen suddenly.
 - The trials of life produce **maturity** (or maybe the coming to an end of one's selfish flesh) and they open our hearts to this surrender we're talking about.
- David Jeremiah says: "*Unless there is within us that which is above us, we will soon **yield** to that which is around us.*"

Every trial can bring temptation with it.

- When we face financial difficulties, are we tempted to **distrust** God?
- When someone dear to us dies, are we tempted to question God's **love**?
- When we face unjust treatment or even suffering, are we tempted to question God's **justice**?
- What originates all this temptation what keeps us from fresh surrender? Our own **evil desires**.

- Right response leads to spiritual **endurance**, righteousness, wisdom, and other blessings.

Four steps that leads to giving into temptation:

1. **Deception**: We think we can handle the temptation on our own.
2. **Desire**: We desire what is forbidden. Disordered thoughts **lead** to sinful desire that gives birth to sin.
3. **Disobedience**: We act on the desires.
4. **Death**: We risk physical or even spiritual death.
Failure is a great gift that God can use to bring a **divine** means of getting back to where God desires us to be.

God has invited us to learn how to **overcome** temptations:

1. Stay away from what you already know **tempts** you.
2. Learn that overcoming brings **blessings**, not condemnation.
3. Understand that the temptations we face are **common** to all men.
4. Remember in the midst of temptation, that God remains **faithful**.

James motivates us troubled believers to seek **wisdom** and reminds us:

- God is **good** and every good and perfect gift comes from Him.
- God is the **source** of all true wisdom and He offers it freely.
- Since God is good, we don't need anyone or any **temptation** to meet our needs.
- God loves us and desires only what is **best** for us.
- God is **generous**.
- God is **gracious**.

Final thoughts:

- **Celebrate** the reason behind the trial.
- **Calculate** the results of the trial.
- Call on God's **resources** in your trials.