



The Book of
James

Building a Faith that Lasts

New Year - ~~New You~~
same old you



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James

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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 person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- James 1

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 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 firstfruits of all he created.

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Temptation and evil desires give birth
to two ugly, scary babies:

Sin, and Death

We don't want *that* child or grandchild – and we believe God when he says, “Some things are not good for you, and not what I intended.”

So despite the fact that sometimes we desire the very thing tempting us with every part of our being, we decide to trust God and fight!

Strategy for Dealing with Temptation:

- 1) Own it. First step to solving anything
- 2) Pray about it. Seems obvious but do we?
- 3) Put distance between you and it. Be ruthless
- 4) Enlist a trusted partner to help you
- 5) Confess when you fail
- 6) Celebrate your victories and God's grace!

You cannot prevent the birds from flying in the air over your head, but you can prevent them from building a nest in your hair!

- Martin Luther

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Temptation only offers the payoff of grasping at alluring shadows that you can never clutch.

The good gifts, the lasting ones, the ones that bring peace and satisfy, our found in our heavenly Father.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever, Amen.