

James 1:1-27

Text: James 1:12

Introduction:

1. Temptation is universal.
2. Not escape, but how to experience it.
3. Must decide to fight it.
4. Can meet it so as to derive good from it. "Count it all joy when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience." & your faith worketh

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

5. Indians. new soul fiber.

6. Question: how meet temptation?

I. We must seek to conquer temptation with God's help.

1. shall fail without.

2. Farmer's baby.

II. Be sure temptation lies in line of duty.

1. we pray: "Lead us not into temptation"

2. if led by God, he will protect

3. must avoid some temptations

4. must expose self to it to win converts.

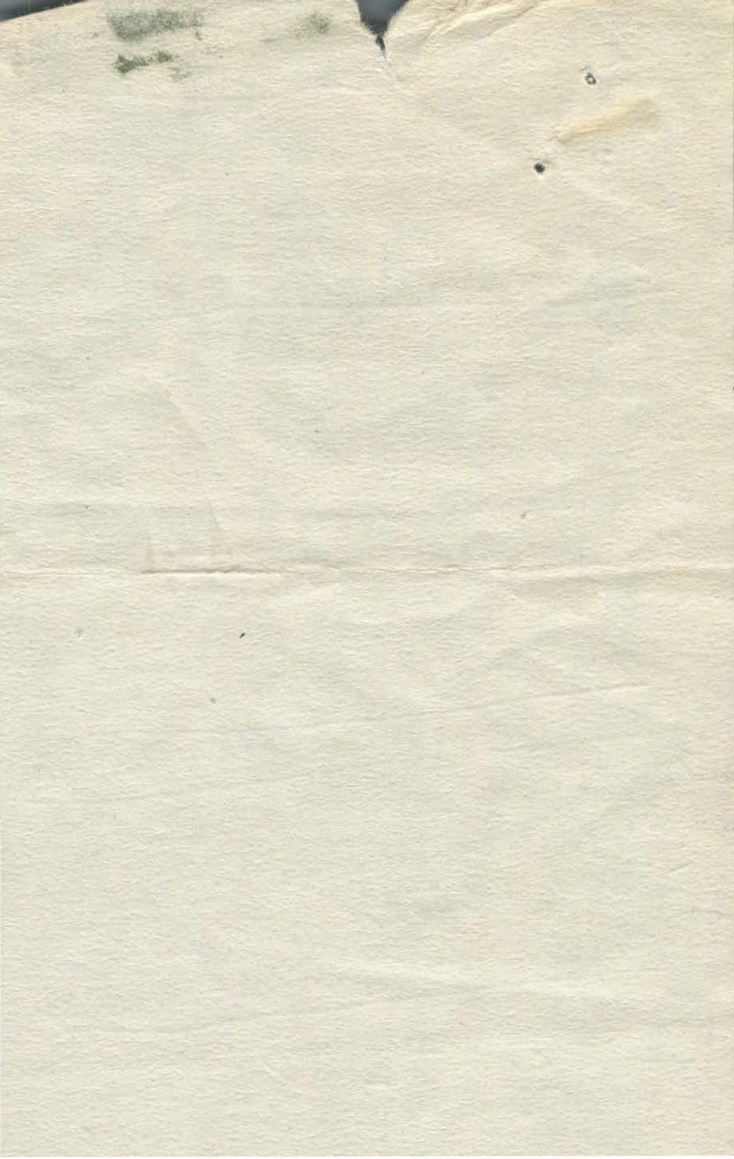
III. Though with God, we have something to do in meeting temptation.

1. we are our own sovereigns to decide, though tempted by others.

2. Bible & heart.

IV. Prayer & faith in Xst necessary.

Conclusion. Trusting in Christ & God, & meeting temptation in duty, it can not harm.



Sermons
New Testament
James
1:1-27

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Date written: April 2, 1949

Text: James 1:12 -- "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Theme: Meeting Temptation.

Proposition: Temptation may be met with safety if we commit ourselves to God.

Sources: The Ministers Manual for 1949, Dorans, p.110-111.

Places preached: *Huntington, Ark., April 3, '49, P.M.*
Kennerly, Wyo., July 3, '49 - A.M.
Cravotta, Wyo., " " - P.M.
Sundance, Wyo. (P.M.), March 2, 1950
Preached for G. Rulver, Ala., "Review", 2 June 1952

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Introduction:

1. The experience of temptation is universal. Every life must grow up amid unfriendly and opposing influences.

2. The question in life is not how to escape temptation, but how to pass through it so as not to be harmed by it. Christ's way of helping us is not by keeping us out of the conflicts. All the best things in life, the only things worth getting, lie beyond the fields of struggle, and we can get them only by overcoming.

3. We must meet temptation, and we must make up our minds to fight. Not to fight is to lose all. It is possible to meet the strongest temptations and not be hurt by them. It has been done. Men have met the fiercest enemies, the most unrelenting oppositions, passed through the hottest flames, and have come out, like the Hebrew children from the king's furnace, without even the smell of fire on their garments.

4. There is even a way of so meeting temptations as to get benefit and blessing from them. The apostle writer of our text said, "count it all joy when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience." Also, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to them that love him."

5. Rightly meeting and victoriously resisting puts new fiber into the soul. The Indians say that when a warrior kills a foe that the spirit of the vanquished enemy enters the victors heart and adds to his own strength. This is true in spiritual warfare. We grow stronger through our struggles and victories. Each evil conquered adds to the strength of our soul.

6. The question, then, is how to meet temptation so as to overcome and thus win the blessing there is in it.

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I. We must seek to conquer temptation only with God's help. We are not able in ourselves successfully to fight our battles.

1. If we think we are, and go forth in our own name and strength, we shall fail. Life is too large and its struggles and conflicts are too sore for the strongest human power unaided.

2. A farmer had sowed his entire prairie quarter-section in wheat, and by harvest time his house was surrounded on all sides by a sea of waving grain.

One Sunday afternoon he and his wife walked out in it a short way, discussing the fine prospects for the crop. Behind them toddled their two-year-old son. They strolled on, engrossed in their conversation.

Suddenly they thought of the baby. They looked back, but he had disappeared in the grain. Frantically they searched for him, but without success. With their neighbors they searched all night, and all the next day and night, but in vain.

On the following day one of the neighbors suggested that they all join hands and look through the field that way. In that manner they soon came upon the child -- only to find that he had died from exposure.

As the agonized father lifted the poor little body he sobbed: "Oh, God, why did we not join hands together before."

3. So it is that if we do not join hands with God in time, we shall not be successful in meeting temptation.

II. We must be sure that the temptation we are meeting really lies in the path of our duty.

1. We pray, "Lead us not into temptation." We must be sure, then, that we are following our Father's leading when we enter any way of temptation.

2. Only when the temptation comes in the path over which the Divine Guide takes us have we the assurance of protection in it.

3. There are temptations the only way of escape from which is avoidance. We have no right to meet them. Drinking, immorality.

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4. A person bound upon winning converts to Christ might enter buildings where sin was the work of the occupants. If he went there with the idea of entering upon or participating in that sin, he would be yielding to temptation before meeting it. If he went there out of a curiosity to find out what that particular brand of sin was like, he would be exposing himself to temptation which might overcome him. But if his real thought was to convert those he met there to Jesus, then the line of duty would lead him in. This is along the line of what is meant when it is said that some temptations lie in the line of duty; that God sometimes leads into temptation.

III. Although our trust is in God, we must remember that when we meet temptation, we have something ourselves to do in overcoming it.

1. Men and devils may tempt us, but men and devils cannot force us to yield. We are sovereigns in our choices while the right and the wrong stand before us.

2. A Sunday School teacher asked his class of boys the question: "Where do you keep the Bible at home?"

A student, quick on the draw, immediately chirped out this answer: "In the cellar."

"In the cellar!" exclaimed the teacher. "That's no place for the Bible."

"Oh, the Bible," the lad replied, "I thought you said the bottle."

People often try to find the answer to life's problems in the bottle instead of with the Bible. Only the individual can decide which he'll use most. If he chooses to expose himself to the temptation of the bottle, or anything else, he may rest assured that the temptation will grow stronger; and that he must choose. Only he can make the choice.

IV. In addition to ~~trust in God~~, these, faith and prayer are needed.

CONCLUSION

1. When the temptation comes in the path of duty, and when we resist it with unflinching determination, we may with simple confidence commit our safety to God. Then no evil can overcome us.

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