

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT TEMPTATION

James 1:12–18

Webster's New College Dictionary offers this definition of the word *tempt*: "To entice someone to commit an unwise or immoral act, especially by a promise of reward." It then suggests various synonyms: "lure, entice, allure, seduce." We immediately think of being lured into illicit sexual activities through lustful desires, but temptation has a much broader sweep across our lives. It could include being drawn into other evil pursuits, like greed, pride, fame, power to control, thievery, envy, and jealousy. As we have learned, James wrote of the value of trials and tests (1:2–12a), but that is not to be confused with temptations. James assures us that trials are to be endured, knowing they are for our good . . . but temptations are to be avoided, since they entice us into sinful and harmful consequences.

I. Two Facts to Remember

- It is always _____.
- It is never _____.

II. Four Realities to Understand

- First: _____
- Second: _____
- Third: _____
- Fourth: _____

III. How to Apply What We've Learned

- What NOT to do: _____
- What's BEST to do: _____