

TEMPTATION

Part Two

The word for temptation in the Greek text is *peirasmos*. It is translated by Greek teachers to mean test or temptation. Tests and temptations are two sides of the same thing. Life as we know it is full of trials, and each trial is a potential temptation.

James gives a very good explanation of how trials turn into temptations. He writes, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [various] temptations [trials]; Knowing this, that the trying [testing] of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect [complete] work, that ye may be perfect and entire [fully developed with no defect], wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4). Later in the same chapter James adds, “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried [tested], he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).

God has a beneficent purpose in allowing us to go through trials. The trials perfect us [matures us], gives us endurance, and brings us to the point of spiritual completeness. Peter said, “But the God all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect [complete, mature], stablish, strengthen, settle you” (I Peter 5:10). God sends us tests but not temptations.

James also said, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man” (James 1:13). God himself is never responsible for the solicitation to do evil. It is our own lust that produces the solicitation to do evil. Victory in temptation is gained with an understanding of how temptation comes. It comes when we are drawn away by our own lusts.

Scripture: King James Version: I Corinthians 10:13; James 1:2-4, 12-18; I Peter 5:10

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