

James 1:13-18
Seeing the Deception of the Lure

I. The importance of discerning the _____ of _____

All temptation is based on a lie about _____

II. The key issue in trial & temptation; _____

a. God is not the source of _____

b. God is the source of _____

III. Understanding the _____ behind every temptation

We doubt God's _____ and love by suspecting his _____

IV. Satan's _____ of deception illustrated

a. Doubt God's _____

b. Confuse God's _____

c. Distort God's _____

Satan's deception is that God's gifts are _____ but not the _____

d. Delude us about the _____

V. Defeating temptation by _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. James 1:14 warns us about the process of temptation, using the imagery of a fisherman baiting a hook, teaching that ***“each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”*** Then in verse 16 it teaches ***“Do not be deceive, my beloved brothers.”***
 - a. Is all temptation a deception based on a lie? Does temptation ever tell the truth? Explain your answer.
 - b. If temptation is based on a lie, presenting the enticement of the bait while hiding the hook, how important is it to discern the lie in order to gain victory over the temptation?
 - c. On some moral teachings, Christians have at times taught, “yes that sin is fun, but God says don’t do it.” Can you think of times or issues that you have heard this idea taught? Is this every correct teaching? What are the inadequacies to this idea?
 - d. As you think about the temptations which you are and have been most vulnerable, what is the lie behind that temptation?
2. James teaches us that all temptation ultimately goes back to our doubting the goodness of God. We ultimately all fall to the same lie and temptation as Eve, believing that while God has given us many blessings, He has withheld the best fruit from us.
 - a. This is different than the way we usually think of temptation; what is your initial response to this definition of temptation?
 - b. Can you think of any areas where a person might be tempted were the temptation is not rooted ultimately in a doubt of the goodness of God?
 - c. If we understand temptation as being ultimately rooted in a distrust of God and his goodness and a dissatisfaction with His provision, how might this impact the way that we react and defend ourselves when faced with a temptation?
3. Looking back to Genesis 3:1-7, do you that Eve at the time of the temptation understood it to be ultimately a doubt about the goodness of God?
 - a. Is it our tendency to see temptation as a doubting of the goodness and provision of God?
 - b. To what degree do you think that victory of temptation will be ultimately achieved by taking our eyes off of what might tempt us, or to what degree is the greater need to put our eyes more on God, seeing His character more clearly and more accurately.
4. James not only teaches us that we need to remember that God gives us every good and perfect gift, but also in verse 17 that he is ***“the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”*** Why is this important? How does Satan lie to us about this truth as part of his deception in temptation?
5. In his book “The Screwtape Letters,” C. S. Lewis depicts a senior demon instructing a younger demon on how to tempt humans with the following advice; *“Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form we are, in a sense, on the Enemy's ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, it is His invention, not ours. He made the pleasures; all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is encourage humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or ways, or in degrees which he has forbidden.”* This

defines pleasure as something created by God, and temptation as a perversion of God's created pleasure.

- a. Do you agree with this definition? Can you think of any temptation that would not fit them this definition?
- b. If we believed this about temptation, how might this impact our response to temptation?