

Run for Your Life!
Theme: There is a Reward for Recognizing and Avoiding Sin
James 1:13-18 (Scripture reading Gen. 39:4-11)

Introduction: *"Temptation to sin comes often, in fact, it's natural, but it never comes from God. If we fail, and we will, we are to blame. However, when we fail there is still great opportunity for spiritual growth."*

A Few Questions:

Understand this:

1. If saved, you are in a spiritual battle.
2. If saved, you must be equipped to fight the battle.
3. Know the truth about sin.....

I. Defining and Understanding Temptation

A. James uses two words to describe temptation

1. "peirasmos" 1:2 and 12

Key:

2. "peirazo" v. 13

B. James Declares the Difference 13 (14-17)

1. Everyone is tempted to sin. *"when tempted"*
2. It is never God's fault. He never tempts anyone with evil.
3. If we sin it is our fault.
4. God can only give us good things. *"don't be deceived"*

C. James Describes the Pattern that Leads to Sin 14

1. The Curiosity Phase: *"dragged away"*

Warning: Curiosity will never make you _____.

2. The Taking the Bait Phase: *"enticed"*

Warning: The hook of pain is never felt until it is too _____.

A Huge Insight: _____ hasn't happened yet!

3. The Conception Phase: *"conceived"*

Warning: Sin is _____ and will seek to repeat its performance.

4. The Surprise Phase: *"gives birth to sin"*

Warning: The _____ must be broken of a new habit will emerge.

5. The Moral Law Phase: *"gives birth to death"*

Warning: No one _____ the moral law phase.

An Application: What do you do when faced with temptation?

1. Use your spiritual resources.
2. Remember God is working behind the scenes. I Cor. 10:13
3. Recall and Apply Biblical Truth when you fail.

An Illustration: *You can either be a Victim of Lust or a Victor for the Lord. Gen. 39*

1. The Story of Joseph v. 1-6
2. The Temptation of Joseph v. 7-14
3. The Response of Joseph v. 7-14
 - a. Refusal
 - b. Reinforcement
 - 1.) He recalled His _____.
 - 2.) He reminded himself of the _____.
 - 3.) He remembered his _____.
 - 4.) He rearranged his dealing to _____ it.
 - c. Rejection
4. The Result of Joseph's Endurance v. 14-21

FORMULA FOR FAILURE

1. Rely on Feelings
2. Believe the Fantasies
3. Give in to Fleshly Desires
4. Become Friendly with Evil

FORMULA FOR VICTORY

1. Be _____.
2. Be _____.
3. Be _____ in Christ.
4. Be _____.

"Your life is a summary of all the decisions you make."