

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

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Study Guide

# Overcoming Temptation | James 1:12-15 | Thomas Slager

Unknown Speaker  
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## Major Points

- 1** Temptation is inevitable — just as external trials cannot be avoided, neither can internal temptation, and we must be on guard against it.  
*James 1:13*
- 2** Temptation does not come from God but from Satan, who uses our own sinful desires against us to lure and entice us toward destruction.  
*James 1:14*
- 3** Unchecked temptation follows a progression from desire to dwelling to disobedience to death — physical, spiritual, and relational.  
*James 1:15*
- 4** Through Christ's righteousness, the Holy Spirit, and God's faithfulness, believers can always find a way of escape and overcome temptation.  
*1 Corinthians 10:13*

## Key Quotes

*There's a tempter who's been studying humanity for thousands and thousands of years. He knows how people tick more than we know how people tick. He knows what you want more than you know what you want*

at 20:50

*There's no temptation the devil will throw at you that you can't say no to.*

at 34:08

*This isn't just about white knuckling it and doing it the best you possibly can and fighting back so you don't sin. The secret sauce really is surrender.*

at 33:20

*even though you're alive, it's like you're walking dead. The wages of sin is death.*

at 28:57

*pain, oftentimes, equals growth. And God loves us right where we're at, but you've heard the saying, he loves us too much to keep us there. So he will grow us.*

at 8:53

## Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Slager drew a distinction between external trials (circumstances happening around us) and internal trials (our own sinful desires). How has your experience of dealing with these two kinds of trials been different, and which do you find more challenging to navigate?  
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2. Pastor Slager used the elk hunting illustration to show how the tempter uses our own desires against us. Can you think of a time when something that seemed harmless or even appealing turned out to be a lure toward something destructive? What did you learn from that experience?  
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3. James 1:13 says God cannot be tempted with evil and tempts no one, yet Matthew 4 describes Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. How did Pastor Slager's explanation of Jesus being fully God and fully man help you reconcile these passages? Does anything still feel unresolved?  
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4. Pastor Slager mentioned that our typical responses to trials are wanting quick deliverance or seeking distraction, but that God's solution is endurance. What does it practically look like in your life to 'let the trial have its full effect' rather than running from it or numbing yourself to it?  
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5. 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that God always provides a way of escape from temptation. Pastor Slager gave several everyday examples — gossip, greed, relational compromise. In the moment of temptation, what has helped you actually see and take that 'way of escape' rather than giving in?  
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## Word Studies

### **dokimion / dokimaz** ϛ

*Greek*

To test for genuineness, as in assaying metals or coins to verify they are authentic and not counterfeit; by extension, to be proven or approved through testing.

### **exelk** ϛ

*Greek*

To drag or draw away from safety, as a hunter draws prey out of its place of refuge toward destruction.

## deleaz Đ

*Greek*

To entrap by means of bait, as in fishing — concealing the danger behind something desirable to catch the unsuspecting victim.

## Cross References

### Genesis 3:6

Illustrates the exact progression James describes — Eve saw the fruit was desirable, dwelt on it, then acted — showing how desire conceived gives birth to sin, mirroring James 1:14-15's sequence of lure, desire, and death.

### Proverbs 7:21-23

The seductress luring the young man to destruction 'as an ox goes to the slaughter' directly parallels James's hunting and fishing imagery of being lured and enticed by desire toward death.

### Romans 7:18-23

Paul's confession of an internal war — wanting to do good but finding evil desires within — confirms James's teaching that temptation originates from our own sinful nature, not from external forces alone.

### Ezekiel 18:30-32

God calls Israel to repent and turn from transgressions so that iniquity will not be their ruin, echoing the sermon's emphasis that unchecked sin leads to death but God provides a path to life through repentance.

### Ephesians 6:11-13

Paul's call to put on the full armor of God to stand against the devil's schemes complements the sermon's emphasis on being aware of Satan's tactics and the need for spiritual preparedness to overcome temptation.

## Further Reading

- **Tempted and Tried: Temptation and the Triumph of Christ**  
*by Russell D. Moore*
- **The Mortification of Sin**  
*by John Owen*
- **The Letter of James (The Pillar New Testament Commentary)**  
*by Douglas J. Moo*

## Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
James 1:12-15	Read Aloud	5:04	<i>Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under tri...</i>

1 Thessalonians 3:5	Referenced	15:52
John 10:10	Referenced	16:07
Romans 6:23	Referenced	30:56
1 Corinthians 10:13	Referenced	34:13
1 Peter 5:8	Referenced	32:47
Galatians 5:16	Referenced	33:17
Matthew 4:1-11	Referenced	17:06
2 Samuel 11:1-17	Referenced	29:38
James 1:2	Referenced	1:46
James 1:1	Referenced	2:17
James 1:3	Referenced	8:23
Psalms 23:4	Referenced	9:05
Psalms 119:105	Referenced	5:46
James 1:13	Referenced	14:02
Genesis 3:1-6	Referenced	15:34
Hebrews 2:18	Referenced	17:26
Hebrews 4:15	Referenced	17:26
Philippians 2:6-7	Referenced	17:46
John 1:1-14	Referenced	17:58
James 1:14	Referenced	19:25
James 1:15	Referenced	26:42
2 Corinthians 5:21	Referenced	31:41
Romans 8:37	Referenced	35:39
James 1:22	Referenced	1:19