

Real Faith: Real Temptation

How do I battle temptation so I don't crash my life? (James 1:13-18)

Temptation is universal.

Temptation does not equal sin.

1. **Ask myself where the enticement of evil is blinding me to the goodness of God.** (James 1:13, 17)

- Our temptations are customized to our unique weaknesses and insecurities. (James 1:14)
- All sin is serious: even baby sins grow up to full-grown life-destroyers. (James 1:15)

How do I know when I'm not taking sin seriously?

- ❖ It's not that bad. (downplaying)
- ❖ At least I didn't... (comparing)
- ❖ I can stop whenever I want. (denial)
- ❖ This doesn't hurt anyone. (justifying)
- ❖ There's nothing wrong with this. (false)
- ❖ You made me do it. (blaming)

- Sin is a counterfeit to God's gifts. (James 1:17-18; Matthew 7:11 NLT)

2. **Don't settle for merely listening to God's guidance—put it into action!** (James 1:23-24)

- Information + Application = Transformation. (James 1:25; John 13:17)
- How to fight temptation in my life:
 - **Flee** from it in the first place!
 - **Find** the way out of temptation that God always provides.
 - **Fill** my thoughts and life with integrity, humility, and generosity.

Jeremiah 31:34 ...For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.