

“Persevere!”

Greg Wendschlag April 7, 2019

Dt. 27-34; Josh. 1-6; James; Ps. 48-53

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4

The nature of temptation

James 1:13-15

- The source of temptation is **your evil desire**.
- Temptation is **not sin**. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are.
- Temptation is hard to resist because it is **satisfying for a moment**.
- When you **give in** to desire, it **gives birth to sin**.
- Sin grows up. When it reaches maturity it **gives birth to death**.

The attitude when facing the temptation

“Be governed by this truth: temptations are a reason for total gladness. When you run into them, and there are many kinds of temptations, acknowledge that your faith is being tested for its genuineness. You will have to persevere in resisting the temptation. But you will get stronger as you persevere, ultimately making you mature and lacking nothing!”

- When you feel like quitting remember **why you started**.

“Because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” Jms. 1:2-4

- When you feel like quitting remember what quitting **will cost you**.

“Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death.” Jms. 1:15

- When you feel like quitting remember the **prize awaiting you**.

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.” Jms. 1:12

- When you feel like quitting remember **who is with you**.

“If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” Jms. 1:5

How to overcome the temptation

James 1; Joshua 1; Psalm 51

1. The battle is in the mind.
2. See temptation as an opportunity and persevere with joy
3. Take temptation deadly seriously.
4. Make sure you stay in the Word and pray
5. You are not alone. Ask God for wisdom.
6. Do what God's Word says.
7. Don't be discouraged or afraid. Instead be strong and courageous.
8. When you fall, repent well.

"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Jms. 1:22