



OVERCOMING PERSISTENT TEMPTATION

JAMES 1:13-27

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I. UNDERSTANDING HOW TEMPTATION WORKS—GENESIS 3:1-7

Four steps to the predictable pattern of temptation:

- 1 _____: Either I have the wrong desire or a right desire that I am trying to satisfy in the wrong way or at the wrong time.
- 2 _____: I begin to question God's Word.
- 3 _____: I believe Satan's lie.
- 4 _____: I give in to temptation and sin.

II. WAYS TO OVERCOME PERSISTENT TEMPTATION—JAMES 1:13-27

- 1 Stop playing the _____ game (v.13-15).

There are at least two major problems with blame:

- I make the same _____ over and over again because I am not learning anything.
- I give up the _____ that God has given me to change and grow.

For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

Galatians 6:5 (NLT)

2 Ask God for _____ (v.16-18).

For [Jesus] our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses. When he lived on earth, he was tempted in every way that we are, but he did not sin. Let us, then, feel very sure that we can come before God's throne where there is grace. There we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NCV)

3 Realize when I am _____ vulnerable to temptation (v.19-20).

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

Five question to help me determine my greatest vulnerabilities:

- When am I most tempted?
- Where am I most tempted?
- Who am I with when I am tempted?
- What temporary benefit do I get when I give in?
- How do I feel right before I am tempted?

4 _____ to avoid anything that weakens my faith (v.21).

Plan carefully what you do, and whatever you do will turn out right. Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way.

Proverbs 4:26-27 (TEV)

5 Refocus my _____ on something else (v.22-27)

James suggested at least two ways:

- Fill my _____ with the Word of God (v.22-25).

I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt.

Psalm 119:11 (TMSG)

- Get _____ in good ministry (v.26-27).

Answer Key: Desire, Doubt, Deception, Disobedience, blame, mistakes, power, help, most, plan, attention, mind, involved