

ENDURE TEMPTATION

(JAMES 1:12-16)

I was reading an email the other day in my office and did not care too much for what I was reading. I needed to respond to the email but how to respond was the bigger question. As I read the email over again about 3 times in hopes of gaining a better understanding I noticed that I was beginning to read into the email. I begin to assume that the individual who sent the email had a problem. The context of the email and the words the individual used to express their thoughts did not sit well with me. I had to make a decision and not act impulsively. I was fully aware of the communication we had and understood what should have transpired as a result of our conversation. I understood that it was not my doing that things did not turn out the way they should have. Armed with that information I should have been able to push pass the assumption that something else was being said. I should have been able to push pass reading something into the email that was not written. I realized I needed to endure the temptation to respond in a way that would not kill my influence. I had to pause - back away and not allow myself to be drawn away and enticed by the lust in my flesh to respond in a way that would not be consistent with whom I am. We are tempted / challenged each day. We are tempted / challenged at work, school, home, church and in the community. We are tempted / challenged to behave in a way that is not consistent with the transformed life. We are challenged within ourselves to deal with ourselves to **endure temptation**. We are tempted each day and sometimes we do not take the time to think about the source of the temptation / challenges we face. We don't stop to think that the problem could lie within us. We just act and feel that we are right to respond based on our emotions. We don't consider who we are at the time. We don't assess our thoughts. We don't do as (2 Cor. 13:5) admonishes us. We don't **examine** ourselves to determine if we are in the faith. We run right out into the traffic of temptation and find ourselves at the intersection of decision-making. We don't **prove** ourselves. We don't bring forth the good that is in us to make good the situation we are presented with. (Rom 12:1-2) instructs us in this

manner. We allow ourselves at the moment of the temptation to be **conformed** to this world and not **transformed** by the renewing of our minds. We need to read study and apply what the Word of God has to say about the source of the temptation we experience on a daily basis and confront it nouthetically / biblically. We have deal with the source of the temptation according to the Word of God. I want to call your attention to (**James 1: 12-16**), James the oldest half-brother of Jesus became a leader in Jerusalem and concentrated his efforts on winning his Jewish brothers to Christ. James appealed to the believer that it's necessary to put outward action with inward faith. In (**James 1: 12-16**) He states that the man who endures temptation is blessed. The man that **endures temptation** is fully satisfied not because of favorable circumstances but because Christ indwells him. This blessed man is one who **endures temptation**. He is one who is in the world yet independent of the world. His satisfaction comes from God and not favorable circumstances. (**For when he is tried**), James noting here that you and I will be tried so it should not come as a surprise - we belong to Christ - a trial is around the corner. But look at what he has to say next (**he shall receive the crown of life**). **Who is he?** He is the blessed man that **endures temptation**. The blessed man **endures temptation** and receives the (**crown of life**), expressing all of the highest and best which Christ is and which He gives to us, the highest blessedness of the creature. (**John 14:6**) Jesus said to Thomas: I am the **way** the **truth** and the **life**, no man cometh to the father but by me. In (**James 1:14**) James lets us know where the temptation lies. The temptation that you and I struggle with each and every day is conceived in the lust of our flesh. We are drawn away from the blessed experience of **enduring temptation** by our own lust. My temptation has nothing to do with you. It's me. Your temptation has nothing to do with me. It's you. Our temptation has nothing to do with the individuals we interact with each day. It's in the lust of your flesh. Temptation is conceived when we allow the deeds of our lustful flesh to draw us away to the point of enticing us to err in the way, the truth and the life. In order for the lust of our flesh to draw us away, we must give place to it, and give more attention to the (**situation, circumstance, person**) than should be given. In some cases we pay so much attention to the temptation that we lose focus on the will of God. We begin to spend a lot of time thinking about, assuming or reading into the

situation / temptation. We invite temptation into our thought life. We play with temptation. The bible tells us to endure it. The bible tells us (**to endure**) to sustain a load of miseries, adversity, persecutions or provocations in faith with patience. We are to **endure temptation** with longsuffering (**which is patience towards people**). Why because we love God. I am reminded of a man after God's own heart who allowed the lust of his flesh to draw him away and entice him to act. He allowed that which was in his flesh to get the best of him in a moment in time. In (**1 Sam 11: 5**) there was time enough for David to reconsider his lustful thoughts. But he fixed his eyes on that which tempted him. He **saw** it, **desired** it and **took** it. We must **endure temptation** as a good soldier and demonstrate that we are serious about joining the Lord's army. We must **endure temptation** as one who understands and accepts the will of God for life. We can't allow ourselves to be drawn away by the lust that dwells within our flesh