

TEMPTED AND TESTED (PART I)

1. Text: James 1:12-15
2. There is a word in the original Greek New Testament (peirazo) used 49 times (as a verb and noun) that has extremely important meaning for us. Its two distinct meanings have direct application to all of us.
3. One meaning is to tempt to sin. The second means to test or try and usage and context determines what the word means.
4. We deal in this lesson with the word used in the sense of temptation to sin. Two points must be understood:

I. **Deity Does Not Tempt Us**

1. Consistently through the Scriptures Satan or the devil is involved in temptation.
2. In the temptations of our Lord, He deals directly with Satan (Mark 1:13) or the devil (Matthew 4:1).
3. In I Thessalonians 3:5 Paul says he sent to see if tempter had tempted them.
4. I Corinthians 7:5 Satan could tempt those in this passage.
5. James 1:13 is a key passage. It clearly says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."
6. In the King James Version, there is a mistake in translation at Genesis 22:1 where it says "God tempted Abraham." That contradicts James 1:13. Tested is better than tempted here. Hebrews 11:17 "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac."

II. **Mankind Can Overcome Temptation (By Proper Resources)**

1. By Precautions. Galatians 6:1 says in restoring the sinner, consider yourself lest you be tempted. I Timothy 6:9 warns those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires.
2. By following the Pattern. Hebrews 4:15 Christ was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. Mark 1:13 Christ faced one stretch of 40 days tempted by Satan.
3. By Christ's Provisions. Hebrews 2:18 Christ suffered being tempted and is able to aid those who are tempted.
4. By the Promise. I Corinthians 10:13 Temptations are common to all; God is faithful not to allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able, but will make a way of escape that we may be able to endure it. II Peter 2:9 The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation.
5. By knowing the Process. James 1:14-15 Tempted when drawn away, enticed, desire conceives, gives birth to sin, then death.
6. By Prayer. Matthew 6:13 Bring us out into temptation. Matthew 26:41; Luke 22:40, 46 Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation.

Conclusion: James 1:12.

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, August 26, 2007**

