

struggled with these types of deception? How does that impact your attitude and actions? Please read Hebrews 4:14-16. How is Jesus able to sympathize with us? In what ways was Jesus tempted, not just in Luke 4 and Matthew 4, but throughout his life? How can we then approach God, according to these verses? How does the sympathy and understanding of Christ motivate you when temptations arise?

Pray today that you will have clear discernment to know the difference between deception and truth. Pray that you will grow in your faith and walk with God.

Friday

Please read James 1:17. Think about some past struggles with temptation. In what way did you see the goodness of God through those struggles? Why do you think James connected the topics of temptation and God's goodness? Write down ten good gifts God has given to you:

Thank God today for all he has given you. Thank him for his unchanging nature. Pray that as you face temptations of different kinds today you will remember the goodness of God and that you will be able to refocus on that instead of the temptation.

Saturday

Please read James 2:1-13 to prepare for tomorrow's message. Ask God to soften your heart and make you receptive to his truth and his people. Pray that you will worship God with your entire being—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray that your heart will be ready to learn and grow! Pray that both services will be pleasing offerings of worship to our great God.



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PRESSURE POINTS

AUTHENTIC FAITH IN A COUNTERFEIT WORLD

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, February 3, 2019

Don't Take the Bait

"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

James 1:12 (NLT)

KEY CONCEPT: _____ **come with**

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed." *James 1:13-14*

When tempted...

1. _____

Three strategies used by Satan:

→ " _____ "

"...tell this stone to become bread."

Matthew 4:2; Luke 4:3

→ " _____ ?"

"I will give you all their authority and splendor... if you worship me..." *Luke 4:5-7*

→ " _____ "

"Throw yourself down... For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully..." *Luke 4:9-11*

2. _____

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

3. _____

→ **Refocus on** _____

“Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers.”

James 1:16

(See also: *1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 6:7;*

1 John 1:8)

→ **Refocus on** _____

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” *James 1:17*

→ **Refocus on** _____

“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

James 1:18

Daily Meditations

Daily Bible readings and questions based on Sunday’s topic.

Memory Verse

“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” *James 1:12 (NLT)*

Monday

Please read James 1:12–18. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message and why? How are temptations different from trials? How are they connected? In verses 13 & 14, what two reasons does James use to demonstrate that God is not the source of temptation? In what way do you struggle with blaming God when you are tempted? What is the ultimate source of temptation? *Thank God today for the honesty of the Bible. Thank him for the fact that he is with you through your trials and temptations. Pray that you’ll be honest with yourself and with God about the source of your temptations. Ask God for wisdom in facing your temptations.*

Tuesday

Please read James 1:15. How does this verse explain the seriousness of temptation? How does it help you to understand the seriousness of temptation? Write down a temptation you are struggling with right now. Take a moment and write down the “life cycle” of that temptation: What does conception, birth, full-fledged sin, and death of that temptation look like? *Thank God today for his grace and mercy. Spend some time in prayer talking honestly with God about the temptations you are struggling with right now. Pray for a clear sense that God is with you in your struggle and that he will provide you the strength and courage you need.*

Wednesday

Please read Luke 4:1-13. What do you learn about Satan’s tactics in this account? How does Satan’s use of Scripture differ from the way Jesus uses it? If the devil had three shots at you, what three temptations would he use? What do you learn about Jesus’ tactics for resisting temptation in this account? What encouragement do you find in these verses? *Bring your biggest temptations to Jesus right now. Ask him to empower you to change your life by his grace!*

Thursday

Please read Galatians 6:7, James 1:16 & 1 John 1:8. What types of deception are you warned about in these verses? How have you