

The Cancer of sin

James 1:13-15

Sin is a small word with a powerful punch. It is deceitful, destructive, and full of anguish! It crushes strong men and staggers intelligent women!!

It has been victorious over all of Humanity except one! It's caused wars, starved nations, and unleashed unmerciful violence. It has packed courtrooms, increased hospital admissions, messed up marriages, broken friendships, and demolished fellowship.

Sin has defeated some of the best! It caught up with Abraham, busted David, and literally blinded Samson. Be on alert! Be on guard because sin must be dealt with.

James gives us insight into this spiritual terrain. In order to deal with sin we need to understand its origin, its nature, its process, and its conclusion. Lets take a look.

- James 1:13 “When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me. “ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.”
- Our tendency is to blame others. But notice the text. “When Tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” Although in Gen. 22:1 God did tempt Abraham, but the allowance or the testing of our faith is not a provocation to sin but a provocation to surrender. God does not tempt us in the sense of provoking to do wrong under any circumstances.
- James 1:14 “But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires, he is dragged away and enticed.” James has revealed the true source of temptation. God is not the tempter, but man is his own source of temptation.

- Notice it says, “each one.” Each one of us is provoked to sin or tempted by something within us. It’s not God. It’s us! It is not the Devil. It’s us. It’s not our environment. It’s us!!!
- The original language here is interesting. The phrase “dragged away” is a picture of a fisherman or a hunter trapping his prey. It means to draw out or lure forth. So, man by his lust is allured from the safety of self-restraint to sin.
- James is saying this is individualized and personal. Listen to what he says, “His own evil.”
- Illustration: Not long after a wealthy contractor had finished building a new prison in New York, he was found guilty of forgery and sentenced to several years in the same prison he built. As he was escorted into a cell that he himself built he said, I never dreamed when I built this prison that I would one day, by my own doing be confined by it.
- Knowing and understanding what draws you in is very important. When you know what draws you then you are in a better position to pray through. Always remember the primary problem isn’t your environment, but your own dark heart. In order for you to change, your heart must change. Your spirit needs to be renewed. Your mind needs to be transformed. Your focus needs to shift, and your identity needs to be transformed!!
- James 1:15 “Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” The indulgence into sin is terminal. It has been said, “One who has a light view of sin never has great thoughts of God, because God hates sin.”
- James said, “After desire has conceived”. In other words, when lust has arrested you, seized you, something is going to be brought forth from this.

- Sin is conceived and breed from within us. It's an offence, a violation, and a trespass. It does not end with conception and birth. Sin continues. James says, "Sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death." It brings forth death in our lives.
- So the outcome of sin is death, and the result of sin is death. Paul said "the wages of sin is death."
- So we need a solution!! We need cleansing from our corruption. We need redemption from our ruin!!
- Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- The answer to our sin is Jesus!!!! Jesus despised and rejected, Jesus who has carried our sorrows, Jesus who was wounded for our transgressions, Jesus the cross bearing Savior, Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God!!!
- When sin is finished it brings forth death, but when Jesus said it was finished, He opened the door of eternal life!!!
- The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
 - Thank God for Jesus; my advocate in the court of life!!!
- Thank God for Jesus my fuel in the midst of the fight!! Thank God for Jesus my comfort in times of confusion. Thank God for Jesus my peace in the midst of chaos. Thank God for Jesus my strength in the time of weakness. Thank God for Jesus my assurance in the time of uncertainty!!!!
- Thank God that he not only saves us, but sets us at the right hand of the father and by him we cry Aba Father!!!!