

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **James 1:13-15.**

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. [14] But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. [15] Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

B. One of the more popular slogans against drug abuse is to "Just Say No." I wish to borrow that statement, and apply it to our staying away from temptation and sin.

C. Satan's tools involve deception and lying. He tempts us to do evil and we must say NO to remain faithful.

II. THE TOOLS OF SATAN.

A. Satan is a powerful being. He causes everyone to sin (Rom. 3:10,23).

as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;... [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

B. But the power of God the Father, and Jesus the Son is greater:

1. Jesus came to cast out the prince of this world (Jn 12:31)

"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.

2. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1Jn 3:8).

the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

3. The Seventy recognized their superior power over the demons, in Jesus' name (Lk. 10:17-19).

And the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." [18] And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. [19] "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you.

C. Satan is bound from demon possession and inflicting temptations that are stronger than we can bear (Heb. 2:14,15; Rev. 20:2,3; 1Cor. 10:13).

(1Cor 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

(Heb 2:14-15) Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; [15] and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

(Rev 20:2-3) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, [3] and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

D. Satan's tools are deception and lying. He is the father of lies, and lies continually. He often masquerades as an angel of light (Jn. 8:44; 2Cor. 11:14).

(Jn 8:44) "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

(2Cor 11:14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

E. Xians are often warned in the NT not to be deceived (1Cor. 6:9; Gal. 6:7; 2Tim. 3:13; 2Jn. 7).

III. OUR SIN IS OUR FAULT.

A. Even with the power of Satan always a problem, our sin is still our fault. Neither God, Satan, or even our environment are responsible for our sin--we are.

B. James discusses the process by which temptation leads to sin (see Jas 1:13-15).

1. It is not God's fault when we are tempted (Jas. 1:13).
Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.
2. Satan appeals to our lust, our desire to satisfy self (Jas. 1:14).
But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.
3. When lust is allowed to run its full course, sin results (Jas. 1:15a).
Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin;...
4. Sin, allowed to grow unchecked, equals spiritual death (Jas. 1:15b).
...and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
- C. Do not be deceived by the temptation of sin; it promises everything and delivers nothing (Jas. 1:16).
Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.
- D. God has created man with the power of volition. We can think and make choices. Satan tempts us to sin, while God provides a way out. Which way we go (choose) is up to us (see 1Cor. 10:13).

IV. JUST SAY NO TO TEMPTATION.

- A. Some practical suggestions to help you say no to the temptations of sin. Xians can:
 1. **Determine to do God's will.**
A full resolve is necessary (1Jn. 3:10; 5:2,3).
(1Jn 3:10) By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.
(1Jn 5:2-3) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. [3] For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
 2. **Remember you are always in God's presence.**
You cannot escape His presence and knowledge; every time you sin He knows it (Rev. 2:13).
'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
 3. **Set your mind on other things.**
Focus your thinking on heavenly realms, not sin (Col. 3:1,2; Phil. 4:8).
(Col 3:1-2) If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
(Phil 4:8) Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.
 4. **Remember that you are loved.**
It's not that God will hurt you, but that you will hurt God when you sin (Rom. 5:8).
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 5. **There are others counting on you to do right.**
Your influence is much greater than you think; don't blow it (Lk. 17:1,2)!
And He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks should come, but woe to him through whom they come! [2] "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble.
 6. **Call sin by its right names--no euphemisms.**
Let your "yes be yes" and your "no be no" (Jer. 6:14,15).
"And they have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace. [15] "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.
 7. **Run with the right crowd.**
Good peer pressure can make all the difference (1Cor. 15:33; Heb. 12:1,2).
(1Cor 15:33) Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
(Heb 12:1-2) Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that

is set before us, [2] fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

8. **Do not be discouraged by your failures.**

God is great enough by His grace to forgive us our trespasses (see Mt. 18:21-35).

V. **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. When temptation floods your soul, remember that there is always a way out. No special cases, excuses or circumstances (1Cor. 10:13).

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

- B. Just say no to temptation, and the sin that comes thereby.
C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.