

• • TRANSCRIPT

• August 27th 2026 "The Deadly Progression Of Sin"

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You Well, it's good to see everybody here. What a crowd. And it's a blessing to see every one of you here today. And if you have your Bibles, please turn to the book of James. And uh, what a blessing! The book of James, and uh, here I titled this The Deadly Progression of Sin. So, we're going to be looking at the book of James, James chapter 1. And we want to thank those who are watching by internet or live stream. And we just ask you to continually pray for us and pray that God would continually use this ministry to reach those all over the place with the gospel and to lift up the souls of the loved and the saints.

And I'm just blessed to be able to be here and be able to do what I'm doing here. And it going so far out. So, here, James chapter 1, we're going to begin in verse 12. James chapter 1, beginning in verse 12. And if you are able to stand, please stand with me. James chapter 1, verse 12, the Bible says, Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord had promised to them that love him. Let no man say, when he is tempted, I am tempted of God.

For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man. But every man is tempted when he's drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then, when lust had conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin when it is finished bring it forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Let's pray. Father, we thank you. For all that you're doing in our lives. We thank you for the word of God. And we ask you, Lord, that you would speak to each and every one of us, Lord. Help us to understand how Satan uses our own desires against us, Lord. So, Father, help us as we look into your word. May it be a help to each and every one of us. And this I pray in Jesus' name, amen. Well, you can be seated at this time. And here we find James having spoken about outward trials in verses 1 through 12.

And quickly, just look at James chapter 1, verse 2. And it says right here in verse 2 he says my brethren count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations so here he was talking about the trials in your nations but now James is speaking about the inner temptations in verses 13 through 18. And that's what we're going to kind of focus today on God tests us to bring his to bring out the good Amen when he tests us and we see that in verses 1 through 12 Amen but Satan tempts us to bring out the bad and We look we're gonna look at some of that in verses 13 to verse 18 and while tests. And temptations are different experiences they do have the same thing in common without proper preparation. Without proper preparation, the believer will be a victim. Amen. Think of that.

If you're not prepared to deal with the temptations coming at you, you're going to fall into it. So we're going to look at that. So here, as we see, again, we're looking at James chapter 1, verse 12 through 16. And I just want to say that. Satan deceives us through our own desires. Think of that. We face an inward temptation which comes from one's own lust and desires. And the outcome is sin and death. And we're going to see that. So here, James outlined the process by which Satan deceives people. And again Look at James chapter 1, verse 13. And here the Bible says, Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God. For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man. So a lot of times you hear people say, Well, I can't help it. That's how it is. But that's not how it is. Amen. Remember to reject the lie that God tempts us because He doesn't. He tests us. That's a whole different story. He'll test your faith to show you where you're lacking in your faith and trust in Him. And it happens all the time, but temptation is something different.

Temptation is. What we see is how our desires start to go after things. It might be right, but we go after them in the wrong way. If that makes any sense. But I want to just let you know to remember to reject the lie that God tempts us. He is always good. And the gifts that He gives are good gifts. Amen. So always remember that. That's a lie. That we're tempted because of God, because the way God has set things up, because that's not true. There's a tempter, and his name is Satan. And he'll use our own imaginations, our own desires, our own minds.

Amen. And we're going to look at that. Number one Satan tempts us through our desires. Look again in James chapter 1, verse 14. It says, But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust had conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. So we see right here, temptation begins with the normal and natural desires of man's heart. It needs to... Man's hot. And these desires become a problem when Satan tempts us to meet a legitimate desire in an illegitimate way. Now, what do I mean by that? You remember when you were a little child and you walked into the candy store and you looked and your desire was for the candy? And I don't know about you, but sometimes children, when nobody's looking, they may swipe a piece of candy.

Amen. Well, that desire caused them to steal. Amen. So the desire was legit, but Satan says, Oh, you can have that for free. Nobody's looking. " Amen. So we see a threefold. Unfold the vision of temptation and Threefold division of temptation in 1 John 2, verse 16. So please hold your finger in James and turn to 1 John. So if you're in James, you go past 1 and 2 Peter to 1 John and look in 1 John 2, verse 16. It says, for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world. These are the three focuses, the three divisions of temptations. And Satan caused the fall in the garden by appealing to these three areas with Eve. Did you realize that? Turn with me to Genesis chapter 3. And we can see it right here in verse 16. Right at the beginning. And here in Genesis chapter 3, verse 16. I'm sorry, verse 6. That was the consequence in verse 16, but look at verse 6. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat.

So what was happening here? The lust of the flesh, it says right here, the tree was good for food. The lust of the eyes and that it was pleasant to the eyes. And look at the focus on the pride and the tree was to be desired to make one wise. See the three focuses there. This is what Satan Focus is there. This is what Satan uses on all of us. And this is what happens. He tempts us through the desires. We also see this when he also tempted Jesus with the same. Turn with me to Matthew, Matthew chapter 4. And we see it here. This is an amazing scripture. Here we find Jesus beginning his earthly ministry. What do I mean by that? He is now at an age where God's ready to use him. He's at his earthly ministry, and now he's ready to lay all his powers, which he, you know, his deity powers, aside. And we see that he's now ready to walk and do his ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. But he has to get to the weakest point in his flesh as a human.

When I say that, he went and he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, and he was at his weakest point. We're going to pick this up Matthew chapter 4, verse 1 says, then was Jesus led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, he was afterward a hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. What's he talking about? He says, If you were truly the living Son of God, you can do anything.

You created everything. Take that stone and turn it to bread because right now you're hungry. I just paraphrased. But now look what Jesus, but he answered and said, It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God. So what was he doing? What was the temptation there? For the flesh. Your flesh is starving feed it. Verse 5 then the devil taketh him into the holy city and setteth him on the pinnacle of the temple and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down, for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

And Jesus said unto him, It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, and said unto him, all these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said unto him, Get thee hence, Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and behold, the angels came and ministered unto him.

So we see how Satan even tempted Jesus with these same things. Now, think of this he shows him all the kingdoms of World and what was Satan saying if you bow down to me, you don't have to go to the cross. I Will give it to you Jesus had a suffering dying across and paid a penalty of all our sins and The father gave him all the kingdoms of the earth. Amen So we see the here, the threefold division Temptations here the threefold division of temptation and We know that Satan knows you can't skip the desire We're created to have desire for things. Amen and because desires are Godgiven So the enemy wants to control how you desire how your desires are met Satan wants your desires to master you rather than you mastering your desires. And how does he do that? Look again.

Look again in verse 14 of James chapter 1. It says, But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and is enticed. So the word lust means to crave either good or evil. And this word enticed means to entrap to lure, and bait, just as a person lures and baits fish. There's something there that you're going to go after. So we see. Amen? So the first point is Satan tempts us through our own desires. Secondly, Satan loves to deceive by planting evil thoughts. Look what. It says in James 1, verse 15. Then, when lust had conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. So, when a person actually begins to look at and think about something that's forbidden and desires and lusts it, that thought is conceived in his mind. And there's Satan focusing on what you can't have just like Eve, amen? So sin is born the when we look at this right conceived Sin is born and wrong is committed right there in his mind You understand what I'm saying? When you see something You lust after it. Satan is working on your Mind.

You need to have that. The sin has already been born in your mind. Again, the battle is in our mind. Amen. And James used the analogy here of conception. He uses that word. Then, when lust had conceived, there's that word conception. It's like a pregnancy. And so like the birth process, right? The conception starts, and then the process begins. And that's the same thing with the temptation process. That thought starts in your head, and that temptation begins to grow on your desires, and it grows until what? Until you act on it. when temptation is welcome and acted on, that act of conception produces, and I'm going to use this figuratively, as a Child called sin. Amen. And once a child has been conceived, its birth is sure to come. So when you start to, your mind starts to fantasize and follow after that lust in your heart, and Satan is working on it, what happens? That thought is conceived in your mind, and what happens? You begin to go after it. Until what? You do, the act, and that's like birth, amen. So, committing disobedience is like the act of procreation, if I can say it that way. Sin is a child you don't want to have, and children operate by their feelings, and it's the same thing with sin.

Sin works on feelings. Amen. Sin will keep you living by your feelings. And when you live by your feelings, you do the things based on how they make you feel, then whether it is right or wrong. And we see that with Jesus. Everyone knows that Jesus was hungry after 40 days and 40 nights. And we know he was hungry. That was a perfect thing, desire for him to have. But then Satan says, hey, you need to turn the stone into bread. So, what was Satan doing? Satan was using his feelings for him to do something that was wrong. And what was that wrong? To use his powers for his own good. Amen. So, we see it. And then the fourth thing I have is sin's final product is death. Look what it says again in James chapter 1, verse 15. Then when lust had conceived, there's the thought, and bring it forth sin, there's the action, it brings you to the sin.

And sin, when it is finished, bring it forth death. So when Satan deceives and leads us into sin, he causes us to miss the goodness of God. Amen. So don't ever think you have it better than with Satan than you do with God. Satan's road leads to death and destruction if you follow it. Don't forget what he is. Amen. He's a deceiver, and when you succumb to it, what's gonna happen? It's gonna ruin your life, and in the end, if you're not saved, you'll spend eternity in the lake of fire, and that's what happens. We have to be prepared, we have to recognize that Satan is coming after us to deceive us. How do you stop

that? You need to recognize that God is good. And you need to recognize that God has given us the Word of God to help us to strengthen our spiritual lives.

Look what it says in James 1, verse 17. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. So, what God wants you to do is constantly meditate and strengthen the spiritual man with the word of God. And when Satan comes, use the word of God like Jesus did to combat the deception and the temptation that Satan wants you to act on. In Matthew chapter 4, verses 1 through 11 Satan used the same three approaches in tempting Jesus in the wilderness. In Matthew chapter 4, verse 3, it says, and when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Right there we see it. And listen, he still tempts people today to sin through appetite, through greed, or ambition our desires that we should not be a part of. And Christ has given us the means of deliverance. And how did he deliver himself from it? The Word of God. Like Jesus, we are to be filled with the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Turn with me to Ephesians, Ephesians chapter 8.

Ephesians chapter 8. I mean, 5 verse 18. Where did I get 8? Ephesians chapter 5. Sorry about that. Ephesians chapter 5, verse 18. Where was I going there? Look what it says. Ephesians 5 18. And be not drunk with wine, where in excess, but be ye filled with the Spirit. Amen. One of the things that Satan does is he lures you to where your mind and your focus and your decision making is cloudy. Because if your mind is distracted, is cloudy in decision making, you will succumb. And then not only are we to be filled with the spirit, but we're also to be led by the spirit.

Look at Romans chapter eight. This is where I got the eight from. Romans chapter eight. Look what it says in verse 14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Amen. It succeeds when we believers believe the lie and it fails when we cling to truth. So today, the only way you can combat the lies of Satan in the world. And even the lies of your own desires of your heart, is by the word of God. So, God your heart, because temptation thrives on deception. Amen. And we see how Satan was defeated in the wilderness by the word of God. So. Today we see it all always. We see so much deception. We see so much going on. There's so much temptation. And the only thing you can do is be filled with the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit. And here's where we fight against the lies with the Word of God. Let's pray. Father, we thank you. Father, help us, Lord. Help us to be watchful of how Satan will come at us with our own desires, our own lusts. And Father, we know how his temptations are strong if we're not in the Word.

And Father, help us. Help us to constantly be led by the Spirit, filled by the Spirit, Lord, so that we can stand against. The wiles of the devil. And Father, thank you for your word. Thank you for your Holy Spirit. Thank you that we have the Spirit of God in us, that we don't have to succumb to the temptations of Satan. And Father, help us to be strong. In Jesus' name, amen.