

**HACC Small Groups 2018 Fall Cycle**  
**Series: Soul Detox | Part #4: Temptation**

**INTRODUCTION**

The well known Christian author Neil T. Anderson wrote the following; "The essence of temptation is the invitation to live independently of God."

God wants to know each and every one of us. Temptation gets in the way of God knowing us and us knowing God because giving into temptation is equivalent to us saying to God, "I don't need you, and I don't want anything to do with your way of doing things."

Temptation is such a strong toxin that it leads to sin and death and threatens to destroy us. However, it does not have to be that way. There is a way to survive and overcome temptation, not allowing it to have victory in our lives. It can be treated. Let's see what the Bible says.

**PASSAGE**

**James 1 - Trials and temptations**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

<sup>9</sup> Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. <sup>10</sup> But the rich should take pride in their humiliation – since they will pass away like a wild flower. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

<sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

<sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

## **DISCUSSION - What is Temptation?**

1. What is the difference between trials and temptation?

**“<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”**

2. Does God tempt us?
3. Does God cause trials in our lives?  
What purpose do trials serve?

**“<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”**

4. What is the difference between being tempted and acting out on a whim?
5. Where does temptation come from?

**“<sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;”**

6. Can Satan *make us* give into temptation?

**Vs. 14 - “but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.”**

7. What result can come of our actions when we give into temptation?

**Vv. 15-16 – “<sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup> Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.”**

8. Can temptation be resisted?  
If yes, then how?

**Matthew 4:4 – “It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.””**

9. How does giving into temptation demonstrate that we do not trust God?

## **PRAYER**

Spend some time as a group encouraging one another about and praying for the following.

- **God’s word gives us the power we need to fight temptation.**
- **God’s word must be memorized so we can refer to it when we are tempted.**
- **God’s word must be meditated upon for maximum knowledgeability.**
- **God’s word must be recited to God and to ourselves the moment we are tempted.**
- **God’s word reminds us to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit.**