

“The only possible attitude toward out-of-control desire is a declaration of all-out war. . . . There is something about war that sharpens the senses . . . You hear a twig snap or the rustling of leaves and you are in attack mode. Someone coughs and you are ready to pull the trigger. Even after days of little or no sleep, war keeps us vigilant. There is a mean, violent streak in the true Christian life! But violence against whom, or what? Not other people. It’s a violence against all the impulses *in us* that would be violent to other people. It’s a violence against all the impulses *in our own selves* that would make peace with our own sin and settle in with a peacetime mentality. It’s a violence against all lust *in ourselves*, and enslaving desires for food or caffeine or sugar or chocolate or alcohol or pornography or money or the praise of men and the approval of others or power or fame. It’s violence against the impulses *in our own soul* toward racism and sluggish indifference to injustice and poverty and abortion. Christianity is not a settle-in-and-live-at-peace-with-this-world-the-way-it-is kind of religion. If by the Spirit you kill the deeds of your own body, you will live. Christianity is war. On our own sinful impulses.” - Ed Welch

Hebrews 12:1-4

Joshua 24:14

Who Made Me Do It?

James 1:12-15
August 10, 2008
David Traugott

James 1:12-15

1. Tests or Temptations?

A test/trial is an opportunity given to us to practice Christlikeness by obeying God’s Word – to bring about good in our souls

God uses trials to strengthen us as we obey Him - James 1:2-4

God uses trials to refine us, purifying our hearts - Job 23:10

God uses trials to prove genuine our faith, thus giving us greater assurance of salvation and the hope we have received – 1 Peter 1:6-7

God tests both the righteous and the wicked – Psalm 11:4-7

A temptation is a solicitation for us to disobey God's Word and to gratify our fleshly desires

2. Temptations Come Through *Our* Desires - 1:14

James 4:1-2

3. Temptation...sin...death - a slippery slope – 1:15

Sin and death must be stopped at the desire stage

Galatians 5:16

James 4:4-5

4. The Hope of Victory Through Grace

Philippians 4:11-13

1 Corinthians 10:13

This day, we must choose how we will respond...

- How will we respond to the tests and trials God has placed in our lives?
- How will we respond to the temptations that our own sin desires?