Temptations - Satan’s Flaming Arrows

**Intro: Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16).**

**James 1:2-18**

**I. Where Do Temptations Come From? - v13-18**

**A. v13-15 - Satan produces temptations.**

 **1. Temptation (πειράζω) = a test, a thought designed to produce evil action.**

 **a. v13 says that God doesn’t produce that!**

 **b. Job’s trials were given by Satan but limited by God (Job 1 & 2)**

 **c. The temptations of Jesus came straight from the devil (Matthew 4:1-11)**

 **2. v14 - But Satan uses your own attitudes as ammunition against you.**

 **a. Evil desire (ἐπιθῡμία) = lust.**

 **b. Dragged away (ἐξέλκω) = lured, to draw out by beating the brush (hunters).**

 **c. Enticed (δελεάζω) = to lure with bait (fishermen).**

 **3. v15 - When these thoughts persist, they produce bad conduct.**

 **4. As this sin continues, it produces death. Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death.**

**B. God doesn’t provide temptations. He motivates us by His kindness (Rom 2:4).**

 **1. Good certainly isn’t provided by Satan. ILL: The Unpardonable Sin (Matt 12:22-32)**

 **2. v17 - Rather, God is the provider of every good & perfect gift.**

 **3. v18 - God’s goal is to use His Word to produce us as the first fruit of His creatures!**

**II. How are You to React to Temptation When It Comes? - v2-12**

**A. v2 - You are to consider it pure joy!**

 **1. v3 - Because the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ILL: The iron bar: worth $2.50; as a horseshoe: $5.00; as needles: $175.00: as a knife blade: $1625.00; as watchsprings: $125,000.00!**

 **2. v4 - Because when perseverance matures, the result is a complete Christian who lacks nothing in his faith!**

**B. How can temptation be transformed into this blessing?**

 **1. v5-8 - Through prayer.**

 **a. God gives liberally to those who pray. Consider Solomon.**

 **b. But effective prayer must be trusting prayer!**

 **2. v9-11 - Through being content with where the Lord has you right now.**

 **a. Prov 15:16- Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.**

 **b. John the Baptist told the Roman soldiers to be content with their pay. (Lk 3:14)**

 **c. Paul learned to be content in whatever circumstances he was in. (Phil 4:11).**

 **d. Heb 13:5 tells us to be content with what we have!**

 **e. So - accept the testing with joy, whether through temptation or affliction, with grace & discernment.**

 **3. v12 - Through the hope that when you endure the testing you will be rewarded.
 ILL: Diamonds are burnished for months with diamond dust before they are fit to be jewels for a crown.**

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