



Mirror Mirror on the Wall

James 1: 13 - 18

Testing	Temptation
Seeks to reveal the person's moral qualities or character and move them into conformity with the nature of Christ.	Deceives and persuades to evil, so that it may corrupt and ruin.
Seeks to "undeceive".	Seeks to deceive
Aims at the person's good, making him more aware of his need for God and of God's glorious ability to supply all of his needs according to God's riches in Christ Jesus.	Aims at leading the person, consciously or unconsciously, into increasing independence and separation from God and His revealed will.
The work of God.	The result of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. **16** Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18** He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

13-15 Don't let anyone under pressure to give in to evil say, "God is trying to trip me up." God is impervious to evil, and puts evil in no one's way. The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.

16-18 So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

- *Leviticus 11:44 - He is holy.*
- *Isaiah 6:3-5 - Holy is the Lord Almighty.*
- *1 John 1:5 - In Him there is no darkness at all.*
- *Because He is holy, His will for us is also to be holy, never toward evil.*

14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

- *Dragged away - being hunted.*
- *Enticed - being fished (with bait).*
- *We are the ones being hunted and fished by the devil.*
- *We have to take responsibility for our own decisions, as we are tempted by our own evil desires.*
- *We cannot play the 'blame-game' with God because he has made this clear to us.*

15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- *Childbearing imagery to describe the kind of development of sin, leading to death. Natural progression after bowing to sin repeatedly.*
- *Allowing our sinful desires to gestate. We entertain thoughts -> words -> actions -> habits.*
- *Paints a true picture of sin leading only to death.*
 - *Rom 6:23*
 - *Gen 2:17*
- *Warning to see the dangers of temptation, to abhor sin and be steadfast, preserving life.*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

~ Matthew 16 : 24 ~

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

~ 1 Corinthians 10 : 13 ~

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

- *Take God seriously.*
- *Honour Him.*

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

- *Hebrews 13:8 - God does not change.*
- *He is the same yesterday, today and forever.*
- *Cling to God, who will supply us with unfailing love in our times of trial.*

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

- *In contrast to death, God gives us life through God's word. We are formed for his praise and glory.*
- *Need to believe that in the midst of trials, God has a perfect plan for us.*
- *Look up to God, instead of just at our own trials/suffering. Being joyful even in trials as a reflection of God's nature.*
- *To have God's character more and more reflected in us -> when we resist temptation and abhor sin.*
- *Doing good in times of trial. Imitate God's good giving.*

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

~ 1 Peter 1 : 6 - 7 ~