**James 1:13-18 Undivided in temptation**

“I can resist everything…except temptation” (Oscar Wilde)

“Lord, make me pure…but not yet!” (Augustine)

The command: “Hate what is evil, cling on to what is good” (Romans 12:9, cf Psalm 97:10).

The problem: Sin feels good!

The Bible doesn’t deny this – “the fleeting *pleasures* of sin” (Heb. 11:25)

James big concern: undivided

Barrier #1: The reality of trials (1:1-12) – external

Barrier #2: The pull of temptation (1:13-18) – internal

**Don’t buy into Sin’s web of lies (v.13-16)**

Master Strategist

Know how Sin works to entangle us

1. **Deception**

Temptation: “An appeal to the inclination of our hearts to do what is evil in God’s sight”

“It’s never your fault…”

“The woman you put here with me…” (Gen. 3:12)

Wrong thinking (v.13)

1. **Desire**

Our *own* evil desires (v.14)

Deception involves attraction (v.14)

“When tempted…” (v.13a)

1. **Deliberation**

Hooked (v.15a)

1. **Disobedience** → **v. Death** (v.15)

**Be enthralled by God word of truth (v.17-18)**

A new kind of human being (v.18), with new desires

God is never the source of temptation, but the source of good gifts (v.17)

God of all creation

God who never changes

The Greatest Good