

James 1:12–16 (NIV84)

¹² Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 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 one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away 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.

1. God is not responsible for evil (13-16)

A. Man’s natural inclination is to blame.

¹³ *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.”*

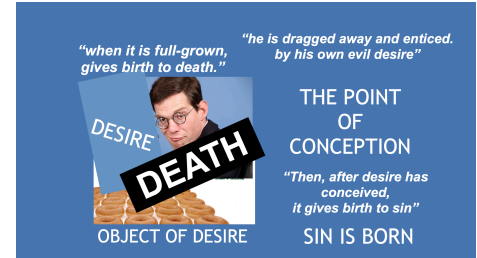
B. The very nature of God disallows him from being a tempter of evil.

¹³ ...For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;*

* God is good and has NO EXPERIENCE with evil.

* God can’t be tempted because He has NO NEEDS.

C. Man’s problem with temptation is an inner struggle.

¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**PROCESS OF SIN**

1. An object of desire presents itself
 2. Our desire acknowledges the object ~ TEMPTATION
 3. We become our own lure and drag and entice ourselves to the object of desire ~ LUST
 4. Our desire and the object conceive ~ SIN BEGINS. (Lust gives birth to sin)
 5. Sin is born (James uses the language of childbirth)
 6. When sin is allowed to stay, we experience death
- The order is TEMPTATION, LUST, SIN, DEATH

James 4:4–8 (ESV)

⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1. All sin is a matter of our allegiance.

⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2. God deeply desires for us to live our life focused upon him.

⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

3. The power to resist sin and temptation is within God’s grace.

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

The means for avoiding temptation as follows...

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

4. We avoid temptation by...

- living humbly
- submitting our lives to God
- saying no to the devil
- drawing near to God
- repentance of our deeds and hearts
- staying singularly focused.