No More Excuses
James 1:13-15

When life gets tough and we succumb to sin, it can be so tempting to blame God. After all, God allowed the difficult circumstances into our lives! But James just won't let us go down that path. God cannot be tempted by sin, nor does He tempt us. It is completely contrary to His unchangeable goodness. Instead, James says, temptation comes from within us. We are responsible for our sin, and we will never overcome our sin until we own up to our sin.

Genesis 3:12-13
The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”
Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”
And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

You will never overcome your sin until you own up to your sin.

Don’t Blame God
1. God is untemptable
   Isaiah 6:3
   And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.”

   Revelation 4:8
   And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.”

   1 John 1:5
   This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

2. God is not a tempter

3. God does test His people
   Genesis 22:1–2
   Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”

Test/trial/temptation
“Let no one say when he is tested/tempted,
I am being tested/tempted by God.”
“Let no one say when he is tested,
I am being tempted by God.”
   – test: a challenge designed to grow us and bring us honor
   – temptation: an enticement designed to ensnare us in sin
Matthew 4:1
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Deuteronomy 8:2–3
“You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you...that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.”

The root of all sin
is the suspicion
that God is not good.

Accept Responsibility

1. Tempted by lust
2. Sin is born
3. Sin grows into death

Ezekiel 18:26–27
“When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity and dies because of it, for his iniquity which he has committed he will die. Again, when a wicked man turns away from his wickedness which he has committed and practices justice and righteousness, he will save his life (lit. soul).”

You will never overcome your sin until you own up to your sin

Application

Don’t take the bait
Get off the hook