

Message Series: Faith Really Works – The Book of James

Today: Faith Really Works When You're On Temptation Island

Message Text: James 1:12-18

Speaker: Ronnie Norman

1. When Facing Temptation

A. Recognize the source of temptation.

James 1:12-14

¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

Top Four Temptations

1. Idolatry
2. Sexual Immorality
3. Lack of Contentment
4. Grumbling against authority

Top Five Temptations For Empty Nesters

5. Spiritual Retirement
4. Inflexibility
3. Incapacitating Regret
2. Critical Spirit
1. Worry

B. Recognize the seriousness of temptation.

James 1:15

These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters.

John 10:10

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

2. When Fighting Temptation, Remember ...

A. You are not just choosing; you preferring something better.

James 1:16-17

¹⁶ So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

B. You are not "just saying no," you are saying "yes" to the fresh activity of God within you.

James 1:18

He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

C. Personal battles don't have to be private battles.

James 1:16

So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters.