

In our last lesson, we learned that God can use trials to help our faith grow and become strong.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of _____, which God has promised to those who love him.

(James 1:12)

The **testing** of our faith can actually draw us **closer** to God. But there is a very different source and a completely different goal behind **temptation**.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is _____ and enticed by his _____ desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to _____, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (James 1:13-15)

When I decide I would rather follow my own desires than the will of my Father in heaven, I've opened the dangerous door to sin (Gen 4:7). Jude described this destructive path when he warned...

In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly _____. It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. (18-19)

It's easy to follow our own passions and desires! It's tempting to do because it feels so natural. It's enjoyable to do ... for a little while.

Do not be _____, my beloved brothers. (James 1:16)

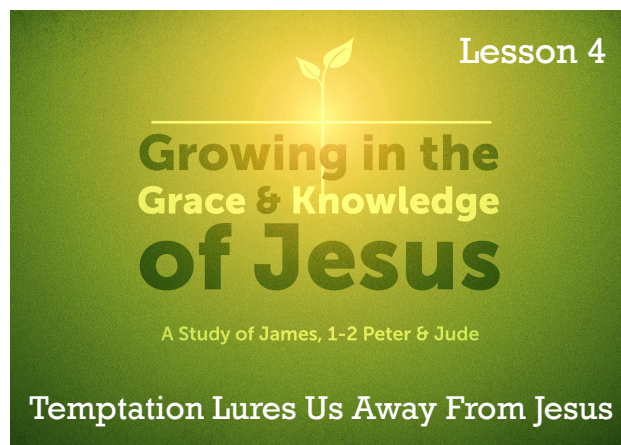
Our good Father in heaven is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of _____, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the _____ of God. (James 1:18-20)

Is there a word we could use to describe what it means for a human being to produce the righteousness of God? There *is*, and Peter used it when he wrote...

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do _____ be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be _____ in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Pet 1:13-16)

We have a very real enemy who will do everything he possibly can to lure us **away** from Jesus (1 Pet 5:8-9). The God of all grace knows how to help us grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (5:10-11). So let's follow the One who wants what is best for us!



For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what are the differences between a trial (or a test) and a temptation?
- Why would James warn us the way he does in [James 1:13](#)?
- In your own words, what does it mean to be “lured” (1:14)?
- Being “enticed by” our “own desires” (1:14) sounds like something we need to be on guard against. But *how* does that happen? Why is it dangerous?
- What sort of “death” is being described in 1:15? [Isaiah 59:1-2](#) might be helpful here...
- Can you think of some examples from the Bible of men or women who walked down this destructive path and suffered the consequences as a result? Those examples are recorded for our learning...
- Can you think of some examples from the Bible of men or women who were tempted but refused to give in? Those examples are also recorded for our good. What can we learn from them?
- When Peter encourages us to prepare our minds for action and be sober-minded (1 [Pet 1:13](#)), what does he mean? How can we do that?
- In everyday terms, what does it mean to “resist” our adversary the devil (1 [Pet 5:8-9](#))?
- How can being “firm” in faith make all the difference when it comes to temptation (5:9)?