



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

TUESDAY

THF COLLEGE - NO Worship Service

WEDNESDAY

THF STUDENTS - NO Worship Service

THURSDAY

THF MEN - NO Bible Study & Fellowship

UPCOMING AT THF

NOV 23-24

OFFICE CLOSED

NOV 26

ONE SERVICE - 9:30AM
Lord's Supper

DEC 3

ONE TRADITIONAL SERVICE
9:30AM

JINGLE JAM FAMILY SERVICE
11:00AM

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Please continue to check all of our social media outlets and our website for updates to weekly activities and Sunday Services.

www.theheightsfellowship.org



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

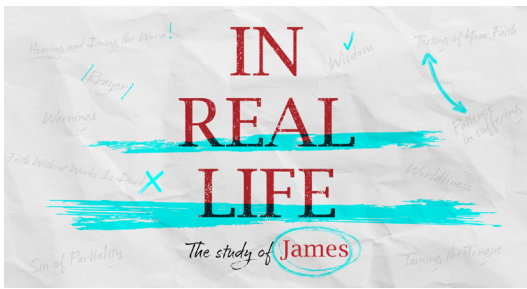
BUDGET GIVING: \$25,979.20

BUDGET NEEDS: \$17,106.00

YEAR TO DATE

BUDGET GIVING: \$777,628.75

BUDGET NEEDS: \$769,770.00



A QUESTION OF BLAME PT 2

The way you handle those fleeting thoughts determines - in a great way - how you handle temptation.
- Swindoll

One sign that you have a real faith: **HOW YOU RESPOND TO TRIALS**

A second sign your faith is real: **HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO TEMPTATION**

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. 18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures. James 1:13-18

Fact #1 - Temptation is ALWAYS present in life ^{v13} **WHEN v13 WITH WHEN v2**

Fact #2 - Temptation **PLAYS NO FAVORITES** ^{v14} **EACH ONE**

The problem with people is that we like to **ASSIGN BLAME**

tempt v. - To try to attract, to entice (a person) to do evil; to present attractions to the passions or frailties of; to allure or incite to evil; to solicit or persuade to do wrong... (Oxford English Dictionary)

I can resist everything - except temptation...the only way to get rid of it is to yield to it. - Oscar Wilde

Fact #3 - Temptation is NEVER prompted by God ^{v13}

- ^{apo} ^v ^{hupo} — The **NATURE** of GOD (Holy) - He is not *temptable*
- The **NURTURE** of GOD (Love) - He is not *tempting*
- The Nature of **MAN** - He is carried away by his own lust ^{v14}
CARRIED AWAY = TO BE LURED OUT AND TRAPPED; ENTICED = TO BE BAITED AND CAUGHT
BUT IT IS OUR LUST THAT IMPELS US TO CHASE THE BAIT

Fact #4 - Temptation is not a **CHANCE** or **ISOLATED** thing ever!
SIN IS NEVER 'JUST HAPPENS.' THERE IS A PATTERN TO IT!

LUST + ATTRACTION + BAIT = ACT

— The Nature of **LUST** is UNRELENTING ^{v15}

The PATTERN of sin...

- **DESIRE/LUST** (EMOTION) - A longing/feeling that wants to be satisfied
- **DECEPTION** (RATIONALIZE) - We begin to *justify* why we should have it
- **DESIGN** (PLAN) - we begin to explore the **how**. Engages the **WILL/CHOICE**
- **DISOBEDIENCE** (ACT) - The sin is committed
- **DEATH** - sin **ALWAYS** leads to death

At this moment God is quite unreal to us. [Remember those words.] He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real. The only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God... The lust thus aroused envelops the mind and will of a man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us. The questions present themselves as, "Is what the flesh desires really sin in this case?" And, "Is it really not permitted me, yes, expected of me now, here in my particular situation to appease desire?" - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Temptation*

Principle in Fighting Temptation -

The SOONER you **START** in the process, the more **SUCCESSFUL** you will be!

The Nature of **LIFE** (Graceful) ^{vv17-18}

James prompts the question:

Why are we playing with temptation when the great **GIVER** is giving us **LIFE**

The DIRECTION of grace (from above)

The DIRECTOR of grace ("Father of Lights")

The **DURATION** of grace - '*first fruits*' is a foretaste

How Do I Gain **VICTORY** Over Temptation?

It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God... Therefore the Bible teaches us in times of temptation in the flesh, there is one command: *Flee! Flee fornication. Flee idolatry. Flee youthful lusts. Flee the lusts of the world. There is no resistance to Satan in lust other than flight. Every struggle against lust in one's own strength is doomed to failure.* - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Temptation*

#1 - Do Not Be DECEIVED ^{v16} **DECEIVED = TO BE LED DOWN THE WRONG PATH**

→ Temptation flourishes on **INCONSISTENT** thinking:

- make a decision BEFOREHAND ^{Job 31:1}
- RECOGNIZE what is happening

#2 - DWELL on the **good things**...and their SOURCE ^{v17} **PHIL 4:8**

#3 - LIVE in the **TRUTH** ^{v18} **PSALM 119:9-11**