

Where Temptation Takes You
James 1: 12-18 NLT / February 8, 2026
Brandon Grant, Lead Pastor

WHERE TEMPTATION TAKES YOU | James 1:12–18 NLT

1) The journey is worth it (v.12)

- “Blessed” = flourishing; “endure” = remain
- God promises a crown of life for those who keep trusting while they struggle
- Key takeaway: Perseverance has a promise

2) Temptation: what it is and what it isn’t (v.13)

- Temptation is inevitable (“when,” not if)
- God tests, but God does not tempt
- Tests: pressure that forms us toward life
- Temptations: persuasion that deforms us toward death

3) How temptation works (v.14) — “Fishing”

- Desire becomes bait: “entice” = bait; “drag” = draw out
- Patterns + familiar lures (not random; targeted)
- The hook aims to tire you out → drift → distance

4) Where it leads (v.15)

- Desires → Sin → Death (trajectory/destination)
- Temptation ≠ sin; turning point is entertaining desire
- Typical pattern: Hesitate → Contemplate → Negotiate → Participate
- “Death” often looks like distance (from God/others/self)

5) Don’t be deceived (v.16)

- This warning is love (“my dear...”)
- Deception makes truth feel offensive and correction feel like attack

6) Ending with hope (v.17–18)

- God is unchanging; every good gift comes from Him
- You are God’s prized possession—He protects what He prizes
- Choose God’s gifts over counterfeit desires

Discernment questions

- Is this pushing me toward God—or pulling me away?
- Does this feel like bait—or invitation?
- Would I bring this into the light—or hide it?
- What happens if I keep playing this forward?