# **The Tempter’s Voice**

James 1:12-15

# Context

In James 1:12, a double result is promised to those who faithfully endure their trials. First is an inner reward of blessedness. The “crown of life” that is “promised” by God could be translated as “crown that is life,” likely referring to the future reward of resurrection. Steadfastness in trials reveals our love for God. Those who love Him will get up, dust themselves off, and, relying more fully on His grace, continue to run the race. Love endures all things. Instead of persevering, we may rationalize that God is at fault for sending such a trying experience and thus blame God for our failure. Blaming the gods was typical of the pagan mindset in Biblical times because their gods were erratic, vengeful, soap-opera deities who taunted and tantalized humanity. Some Christians may have been saying God was tempting them to fall; so, He was to blame for their sin.

# The Question

**• To whom does the tempter’s voice belong?**

# Bible Verse

**James 1:12–15 CSB**

Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone.

But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire.

Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

1. **The tempter’s voice is not** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (13)**
	1. **Because of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
2. **It’s your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (14-15)**
	1. **It’s not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nor the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
	2. **Sin comes by your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (14a)**

Westminster Confession: Question 25 | “The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consisteth in the guilt of Adam’s first sin, ([Rom. 5:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro5.12),[19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro5.19)) the want of that righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually; ([Rom. 3:10–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro3.10-19), [Eph. 2:1–3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph2.1-3), [Rom. 5:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro5.6), [Rom. 8:7–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro8.7-8), [Gen. 6:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge6.5)) which is commonly called Original Sin, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions. ([James 1:14–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas1.14-15), [Matt. 15:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt15.19))”

* 1. **Sin cons by your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (14b)**

In his book entitled *Temptation*, Bonhoeffer describes how this works: “With irresistible power, desire seizes mastery over the flesh.… It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money.… Joy in God is … extinguished in us, and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment, God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real; … 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 man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us. The questions present themselves: “Is what the flesh desires really sin in this case?” “Is it really not permitted to me, yes—expected of me, now, here, in my particular situation, to appease desire?” … It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God.”

* 1. **Sin culminates in your *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*. (15)**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105)

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

“If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)

# Pray

“Dear Jesus, I confess I am a sinner and deserve judgment and hell, but I believe You love, came to this earth for me, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for my sins. I believe God raised you from the dead to forgive me. Please forgive me, come into my life, and grant me eternal life in You name. Help me to glorify you in all I do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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**Our Father who art in heaven,
  hallowed be Thy name,
  Thy kingdom come**,
  **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
  give us this day our daily bread;
  and forgive us our trespasses**
    **as we forgive those who trespass against us;
  and lead us not into temptation,
  but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
  forever and ever. Amen.**

Matthew 6:9–13