

Westminster Confession Catechism

[for the full Confession and Catechism: <http://www.reformed.org/documents/index.html>]

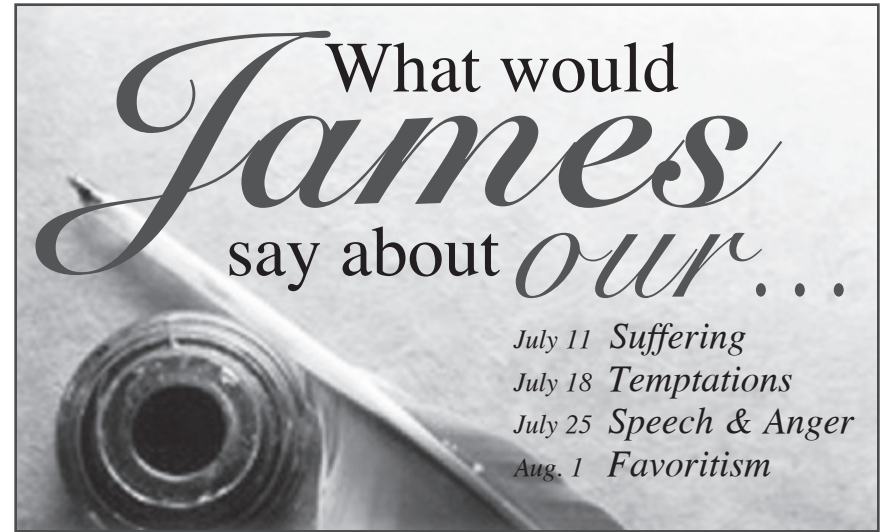
Q. 195. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, (which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,) acknowledging, that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations; that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and ensnare us; and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, and want of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations, but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them; and worthy to be left under the power of them: we pray, that God would so overrule the world and all in it, subdue the flesh, and restrain Satan, order all things, bestow and bless all means of grace, and quicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin; or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation; or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof: that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, forever.

Next Sunday, July 25, 2010:

What would James say about our... "Speech and Anger"

We can't pass over one of James' short exhortations without spending a Sunday focused on it. What are the implications to your life from this statement from *James 1:19-20* *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 righteousness of God.*



James 1:12-18
Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ *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.* ¹⁴ *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.*

trial, tempted - Verse 12 is a bridge between what James has to teach in 1:2-11 about remaining "steadfast under trial" and his next teaching on the source of our temptation in the midst of those trials. Interestingly, the word we translate as "Trial", "Test" or "Temptation" is the translation of one Greek word - "peirasmos". When the idea in the sentence is clearly that of solicitation to evil we translate this word as "Tempt". Where it is clear that James is talking about "testing through suffering or trouble" we translate the word, "Trial".
remains steadfast - In the first section of his letter James wants to encourage his readers who are under the pressure of trials to respond with unwavering faith, trust in God's love and endurance.
tempted by God - James wants his readers to clearly understand that God never entices or leads people to go astray and sin. What James wants us to know is this: In the midst of our trials we will be tempted to sin. This temptation or enticement to sin is not authored by God but has its source, our own heart's desires.
lured and enticed - James uses two metaphors to describe the process of being led astray to sinful behaviors. The first of these metaphors is fishing. We are the fish and we are lured from within. The baited hook will entice or drag us away if we bite.
his own desire - Temptation source? Our desires.

¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

desire conceived - James' second metaphor pictures the process of our being led astray as a conception, birth and death. Just as a woman becomes pregnant when her egg is impregnated, so when we succumb to the desire of our hearts and "take the enticing bait", a conception of sin occurs. Sin conceived is like a baby conceived; there will be birth and then a time of growth and finally a spiritual death.

Do not be deceived - This is a reference to the deception of thinking that God leads us astray by enticing us to do evil. It is a deception that Christians might believe because it takes away a lot of the responsibility we must take upon ourselves for our sinful choices. James says clearly that we must not blame God for the temptations we struggle with, but must instead look hard at the desires within us that are a source of these temptation.

gift is from above - God will never lead us astray into sin, instead James declares He is the Giver of good gifts from above. God is not the source of temptation but the source of the good things of heaven. We can look to Him for help. We can trust in Him because He is our Father.

the Father of Lights - The "lights" are the sun, moon and stars. God is the Father of these lights because He is the Creator and Sustainer of them, just as He is our Creator and Sustainer. We look to Him for help in our times of trial and temptation.

1Cor. 10:12-14

Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Commentaries and resources used in preparation of this message: The Pillar New Testament Commentary, [The Letter of James](#), by Douglass J. Moo; [The Message of James](#) by J.A. Motyer; The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, [James](#), by John MacArthur Jr.; [Counterfeit Gods](#) and [Gospel in Life](#) by Timothy Keller, as well as several sermons delivered by Timothy Keller on the book of James.

1. James says: Don't deceive yourself by thinking God is enticing you to sin!

A. God will N_____ attempt to lead you astray - that would be contrary to His nature!

James 1:13 *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.*

B. God is our Father and He loves to give His children wonderful G_____.

James 1:17-18 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

2. Understand the Process of your Temptation:

A. *Metaphor A* - Temptation is a lot like fishing...

First -

Second -

Third -

Last -

B. *Metaphor B* - Temptation is a lot like the birth cycle...

First - Our desires conceive a plan for their own satisfaction

Second - Sin is birthed into action; it's alive!

Third - The sin lives and grows and ultimately brings death

3. What would James tell us to do about our temptations?

First - Take Responsibility for your R_____.

Second - Discover and Understand your ultimate A_____.

These are the desires/treasures of the heart. They may be good things that have become ultimate things and thus idols. Check first: Power/Influence, Comfort/Pleasure, Approval/Love, and/or Control.

Third - D_____ to place a new desire ahead of all others;

Matt 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.."

Last - Enter the temptation battle with a community of friends.