

Temptation: Deal with it

James 1:13-15



James

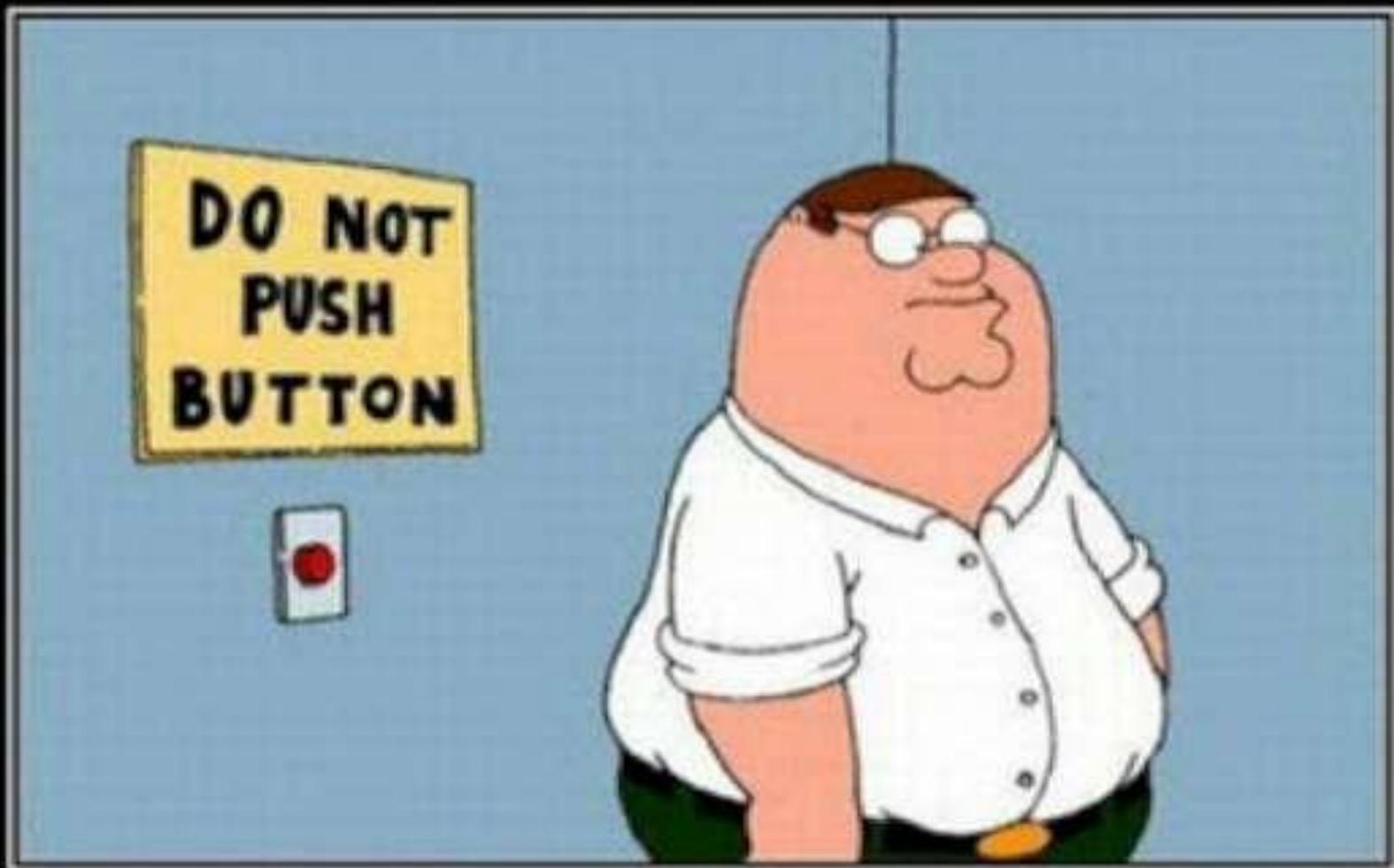
- Generally considered to be author: James (Yacob / Jacob): the half-brother of Jesus & leader of the council of Jerusalem
- full of instruction and command – much of which is inspired by the teaching of Jesus (notably the sermon on the mount) and by the wisdom of the book of Proverbs
- A ‘general letter’ written to the ‘12 Tribes’ – to all believers or at least, as some would argue, all Jewish Christians
- James 1 includes something of a Summary of much of that which the rest of the letter unpacks



James 1

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.





TEMPTATION

Do you really want to spend the rest of your life wondering...

When Tempted

- ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone...
- Another not ‘if’
 - WHEN you are tempted...
- πειράζει (peirazei)
 - peirazó: to make proof of, to attempt, test, tempt
 - James uses the same derivative word elsewhere for trials
 - Temptation and testing are linked



God Does Not Tempt Us

- Jesus taught us to pray ‘Lead us not into temptation’ (Matt 6:13)
- It is not in His nature to sin or to tempt/test us to sin
- God’s instruction to Adam and Eve was to NOT eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- Blaming God was what the Israelites did in the wilderness (Ex 17 / Nu14)
- “God ought not to be put to the test by sinful people”
(New Bible Commentary, IVP)



God Does Not Tempt Us

- If you are tempted – don't be tempted to blame God!
- James 1:14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.
- We have no one to blame but ourselves!!!
- God does not tempt us...
 - ... but He does **allow** us to go through tests
 - Because He believes in you!



God Allows Us to be Tempted

- God allows us to experience temptation / testing
- He sees the potential victory that lies ahead
- Jesus was 'allowed' to be tempted too
 - He was **led** by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the **devil** (Matt 4:1)
 - He was tempted in every kind of way (Heb 4:15) yet did not sin



Sin is a Slippery Slope

- James 1:15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.
- Childbirth illustration: Desire – sin – death (Adam and Eve)
- Stop temptation at the source or get burned by the result
- It is better to build a fence at the top of the cliff than call an ambulance at the bottom (John Glass)



Sin is a Slippery Slope

- Wages of Sin is death... BUT... (Ro 3:23-24)
- “He [or she] that has learned to feel his sins, and to trust Christ as a Saviour, has learned the two hardest and greatest lessons in Christianity.”

— J.I. Packer, Faithfulness and Holiness: The Witness of J.C. Ryle



Dealing with Temptation

- Recognise
- Run
- Resist
- Refocus
- Repent

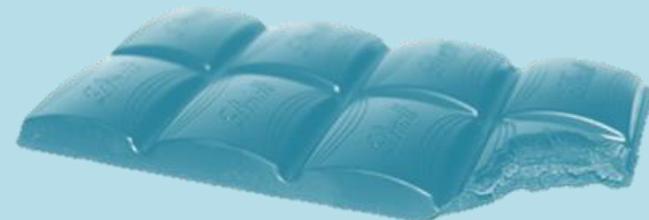


**You Can
Handle the
Truth**



Deal With It

- TRUTH: No 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 (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- TRUTH: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17).
- TRUTH: Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:16).



- “There is tremendous relief in knowing His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery can disillusion him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench his determination to bless me.”
— J.I. Packer, Knowing God



Be Strong... But Not in Your Own Strength

- Ro 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.



- James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.
- “The contrast could hardly be sharper: God promises a ‘crown of life’ but those desires lead in exactly the opposite direction.”

(Tom Wright (James for everyone))



Persevere Through Temptation

- In the face of temptation
- Choose to love God
- Choose to love people

