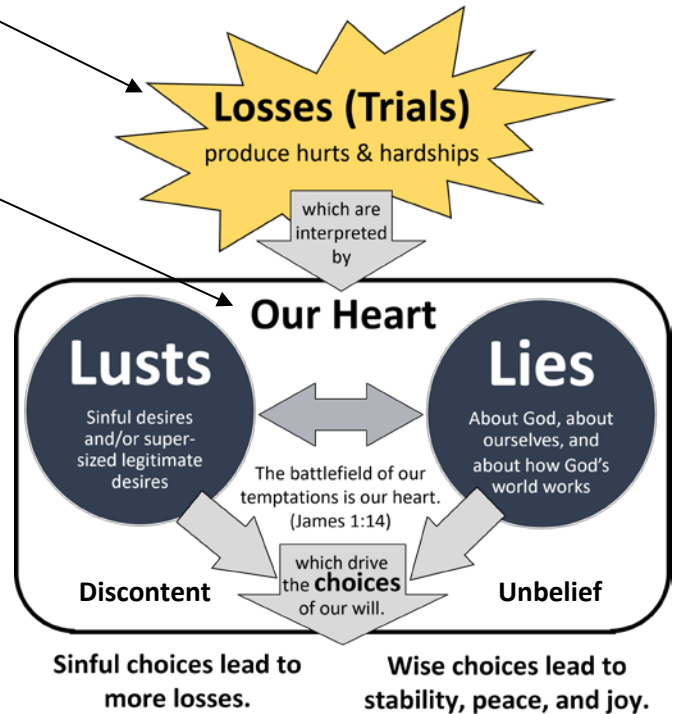


# Consecration's Response to Trials and Temptations

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## The Dynamics of Our Temptations to Respond Sinfully (James 1:14-15).<sup>1</sup>

1. **Trials** are the *hurts and hardships* we face because we live in a broken, fallen world with our own sinful natures and we live among others who sin against us because they have sinful natures.
2. **Temptations** are the *enticements* from the world around us and from our sinful hearts inside us to ignore God's love for us and to violate His laws to get what we want.
3. Satan's primary weapon against us is **deception**. The lies we believe corrupt our **interpretation** of what is happening to us. We then form the wrong **conclusions** about what is happening to us and are tempted to make the wrong **decisions**.
4. When our sinful **desires** (lusts) and super-sized legitimate desires motivate us to **choose** what we want apart from God, we sin. Sinful choices bring more losses, and our lives disintegrate spiritually, morally, emotionally, relationally, cognitively, and physically. According to James 1:14 these problems are universal (i.e., "every man"). This disintegration is both predictable and preventable.
5. Repeated sinful **behaviors** and the resulting **emotions** become habitual, keep us in **bondage**, and rob God of His **glory**. This dynamic is the source of all of our soul problems—**anxiety**, **guilt**, **anger**, **despair**, **hopelessness**, and so forth. Understanding this is the only way to make sense of our struggles and those of others.
6. **Addictions** are the *enslaving, sinful habits* we develop when we repeatedly choose to deal with our trials and temptations in our own ways rather than turning to God and His Word for solutions.



## Identifying Our Losses, Lies, and Lusts

**Lesson 1—Behind every fall is the pull of our desires**—sometimes called "lusts" in the Bible.

Because losses make us feel bad, we immediately **want/desire** something to make us feel better. A lust (strong desire) is often a natural human desire that has been **supersized** by wrong thinking or is being **gratified in disobedience** to God. Sometimes our **emotions** expose our strong desires. Ask yourself...

1. Under what circumstances am I most likely to get **angry**?
2. Under what circumstances am I most likely to become **anxious**?

<sup>1</sup> For more details, see the minibook, *Help! I'm Addicted* by Jim Berg (Shepherd Press, 2020), 60 pages.

3. Under what circumstances am I most likely to **despair** and want to give up?

### **Lesson 2—Behind every fall is belief in a lie (Genesis 3:1-6)**

The fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is a prototype of every human fall since. Satan **deceived** them into disobeying God through His lies. He operates the same way today (John 8:44). Ask yourself...

1. What lies am I believing about God? (“God does not want me to be like Him, knowing good and evil.”)
2. What lies am I believing about myself? (“I need this fruit to be wise.”)
3. What lies am I believing about others? (“The problem is with the woman You gave me.”)
4. What lies am I believing about how God’s world works? (“I won’t surely die if I eat this fruit.”)

You cannot be free from life-dominating sins and handle life wisely if you are not continually learning, believing, and obeying truth from the Bible.

### **Lesson 3—Behind every fall is a choice to believe lies and satisfy our strong desires in our own way.**

Eve fell because she **believed** the lies of Satan that the fruit would give her something she **desired** and that there would be no downside. Once she believed the **lies**, she **disobeyed** God to get what she **wanted**. She did not consult God but “followed her heart.” The result was catastrophic.

### **Lesson 4—Repeated sin leads to the death of something.**

Every time we sin, something begins to die. Once we make decisions based upon lies and sinful lusts, we generate more losses for ourselves, and the cycle repeats. All of the relational, social, financial, emotional, and health “deaths” unfold because God said they would (Proverbs 1; Galatians 6:7-8).

## **Bow, Trust, and Obey—The Godly Response to Trials & Temptations at Home**

**Bowing** to God means turning away from sin and turning to God in repentance and dependence.

- Repentance—“Lord, I disobeyed your Word when I \_\_\_\_\_. I am turning away from my sin and want to walk in obedience to You with Your help. Please forgive me.”
- Submission—“Lord, I have been doing what I want to do. I submit to your way of dealing with \_\_\_\_\_ with Your help. Please help me do right in this area.”

**Trusting** God means believing that what God has said in His Word is, indeed, entirely true and, therefore, the only trustworthy pathway to victory, to blessing, and to pleasing God.

- “God, I trust what You have said about *Yourself* in Your Word. I am thankful that You are always forgiving/loving/merciful/gracious/righteous/holy/compassionate, etc.”
- “God, I trust that the way You have told me to *respond* in this trial/temptation is the absolute best and right way to respond.”
- “God, I trust that You will keep all the *promises* You have made to help me and to be with me as Your child going through this hard time.

**Obeying** God means keeping God’s commands and living by the principles of His Word with His help for His glory no matter how I feel or how difficult the pressure.

- “Lord Jesus, right now I am at a decision-point, and I am going to *instantly obey* You in the power of Your Spirit.” (FTL definition of self-control)
- “Lord Jesus, with your help, I will continue to obey Your Word in the power of Your Spirit no matter what.” (FTL definition of endurance)

## James 1 Lessons for Growing and Changing Through the Trials in Our Family<sup>2</sup>

1. We must see that our core identity as *brothers and sisters in Christ* should shape the way we deal with the hurts and hardships of life (1:2a).
2. We must expect *trials* of all sorts while we live in a broken, fallen world (1:1-2)
3. We must embrace God’s *purpose* of developing in us the character of Jesus through trials (1:3-4).
4. We must ask God for *wisdom* from His Word about how to *respond* to trials (1:5, 21-25).
5. We must ask in *faith*—confident that God’s solutions are far superior to ours (1:6a).
6. We must not sabotage God’s work in us during the trial by *double-mindedness* (1:6-8; 4:1-10).
7. We must develop *endurance* in order to overcome sin, to mature, and to experience the outcome of lasting joy (1: 2-4, 12).
8. We must resist and replace the *deceptions* and disordered *desires* in our hearts that drive life-dominating sins and stubborn habits (1:14-15).
9. We must ask God to change our desires, our thoughts, and our choices as we *meditate upon* and *obey* His Word (1:19-25).
10. The *blessed* life grows into freedom that lasts as we grow in *love for and obedience to Jesus Christ* (1:12).

**Example:** “Lord Jesus, right now this is very hard for me, but I want to please You instead of my sinful heart. You have told me that You won’t give me more than I can bear and that You will help me. I believe You and ask you to give me courage and humility as I obey You by \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.”

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<sup>2</sup>These notes are summary statements from a seven-part sermon series entitled, *Growing and Changing Through James* delivered July 3 through August 14, 2022. The messages can be viewed at the church’s Facebook page, “Faith Baptist Church, Taylors, SC” or at the church’s YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@FaithBaptistChurchTaylorsSC> .