

## TEMPTATION 4 – THE BIRTH OF SIN

Introduction – The trials of life present an opportunity for spiritual growth. When we give into temptation, these same trials are destructive of our character.

### A. Blessed or Cursed – It is your choice!

James 1:12-15

1. Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial.

James 1:2-4

2. The crown of life that the Lord has promised those who love Him results in a restored royalty.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

1 Peter 5:4

3. Do not blame God, others, or the trial itself for the temptation to sin.
4. Sin is described here like an act of sexual seduction.
5. We are tempted, enticed, or literally dragged away by our own evil desires. Never underestimate the power of an evil imagination to eventually destroy you.

Genesis 6:5

6. Like lustful sexual contact that leads to an unintended pregnancy, so we have conceived the child of sin within.
7. Evil imagination remains partially hidden like the child of an unwanted pregnancy. It is only a matter of time for evil intentions to reveal themselves in a concrete act of sin.
8. The sin may seem small like a newborn baby, but once born it will grow up into the monster Thanatos/Death.

### B. Wealth as a blessing or a curse depends on your attitude.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

1. Wealth nor money is evil in itself.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

2. Great gain or success is having a godly lifestyle with an attitude of contentment.
3. We are only temporary managers of wealth, since we come into the world and leave it with nothing material.
4. Be contented with the basics of life.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

5. Sin lies in the desire to get rich and the love of money, which are substitutes for the love of God and people.
6. The temptation of wealth is described in picturesque language, like a trap created to ensnare and kill a dangerous wild animal.
7. Wanting to get rich is like a trap dug deep in the ground. Like an animal driven by its appetite to jump for a piece of meat hung by a rope over a covered pit, we plunge into ruin and destruction.
8. Eagerness for money leads us to wander from the safe path of faith and fall into the pit where sharpened sticks pierce us with many griefs.

Conclusion – Temptation always disguises the real consequences of pursuing evil desires. All we can see is the immediate benefits of sin if blinded by temptation. Love of money is a disordered condition of the heart that will leave us with only regrets.

1 Timothy 6:11-12