

# FATAL ATTRACTIONS: Extreme Actions

JAMES 1:12-17

Dr. Matt Shackelford

■ Central Church

■ February 21, 2021

■ Social Media: #FatalAttractions

## It Takes Extreme Actions To Fight Fatal Attractions:

1. **Learn** Temptation's **Source** (12-14).
2. **Discern** Temptation's **Force** (13-14).
3. **Turn** from Temptation's **Course** (15-17a).

### James 1:12-17a (ESV)

*"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.*

*<sup>13</sup>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.*

*<sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup>*

*Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>16</sup>Do not*

*be deceived, my beloved brothers.*

*<sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...*

## FATAL ATTRACTIONS: Extreme Actions

JAMES 1:12-17

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. It's easy to fall into the trap of blaming God for our temptations rather than our own internal desires. Why is humanity so prone to blame everyone (including God) for his failures? How can we look at our trials as an opportunity for sanctification and "blessing?"
2. In today's passage, God calls the discerning Christian to "look for the hook." We have disloyal, deceptive, and diverse inner desires that routinely tempt us.
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.** In that passage, we get a bad example of Israel dealing with its temptations. Examples are helpful, both good and bad. What do you see in this passage that could help you get active fighting temptation this week?
4. **Read the quote below by JC Ryle.** Temptation never comes out and declares where it will eventually take us. It never presents its true colors. If you had a moral failure, got caught in a lie to your boss, or were prosecuted for not reporting income to the government, what would the spiritual and earthly consequences be? How does routinely considering those consequences become a spiritual grace in your life?
5. This week, how will you take steps to get serious about your temptation and "trade your wishbone for a backbone?" What practical steps are you going to take?

#### **Quote for the Week. . .**

by J.C. Ryle



*"We are apt to forget that temptation to sin rarely presents itself in its true colors, saying, 'I am your deadly enemy, and I want to ruin you forever in hell.' No, sin comes to us, like Judas, with a kiss; and like Joab, with an outstretched hand and flattering words. The forbidden fruit seemed good and desirable to Eve; yet it cast her out of Eden. The walking idly on his palace roof seemed harmless enough to David; yet it ended in adultery and murder."*