Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. April 22, 2018

**The Enemy Within**

James 1:13-18

**Key Truth:** Temptations don’t have to derail us when we understand the root cause and victory God provides.

1. The truth about temptation:
2. Being tempted is not a sin, yielding to temptation is.
3. Temptation comes to destroy us trials comes to strengthen us.
4. The real source of the temptation is our own desire within us.

1. It can be an evil desire. Romans 7:11

2. It can be a godly desire we are tempted to fulfill in an

 ungodly way.

1. Everyone is tempted including Jesus. Matthew 4:1-11, Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:14-15
2. Don’t blame God for your temptation
3. Take responsibility for your temptation.
4. Our temptation is tailored to our own desire.

1. Enticed is a fishing example – don’t take the bait.

2. Drawn away is a hunting example – don’t wander off

 the path God has for you. 1 Timothy 6:9-10

 C. Temptation has as its goal to get you to forget God and His

 purpose for your life. 1 Samuel 11:1-5

1. We must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God’s Word in order to fight temptation.

A. Our willpower is insufficient to resist temptation.

 1 Corinthians 10:13

 B. When tempted run. Genesis 39:11:7-11, 1 Corinthians

 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:22

1. What you believe about God determines your view of temptation. Genesis 3:4
2. Good things come from God.
3. God can be trusted because He doesn’t change.
4. God gives us life motivated solely by His love and goodness.
5. God is glorified through our victorious life.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls**: Thank God for the power He gives us to overcome the temptations we face.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Discuss temptation and its reality in our world. Consider questions such as: Is being tempted a sin? Does everyone experience temptations to the same things and in the same ways? Explain your answers.

What are some of the most memorable stories of temptation in Scripture? (Think: Jesus in the wilderness, Job’s trials, Joseph and Potiphar’s wife) How do these stories make you feel about the temptations you face?

The “blame game” goes back to the beginning of creation. Read Genesis 3:9-13. Who is blaming who in this passage?

According to James in 1:13-15, who is the real culprit we are to blame for our sins?

Why are we tempted to sin? What is the chain of events that happen when we act on our temptations?

Read Ephesians 6:13-18. According to these verses in Ephesians, what tools has God given us to fight the spiritual battle against evil and temptation?

What role does prayer play in accessing the armor of God? What role does the power of God play in our fight?

What are some specific ways you’ve seen God’s power at work in your life when you’ve faced temptations? What role did prayer play in those situations?