



**PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
**LESSON 2 UNDERSTANDING TEMPTATIONS**  
**James 1:13-18**

Cognate: 3986 peirasmós (from 3985 /peirázō) - temptation or test - both senses can apply simultaneously (depending on the context). The positive sense ("test") and negative sense ("temptation") are functions of the context (not merely the words themselves).

**Discussion Questions:**

**1. One of the chief characteristics of sin is the propensity to pass the blame. What are some creative "excuses" you have heard people giving for doing something that is clearly wrong?**

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**2. Think of a time when you have done something wrong, big or small, and tried to cover it up. What makes it so hard to own up to your on guilt?**

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**THE Blame Game:**

- Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Genesis 3:12, 13 NKJV)

**James 1:13-18**

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. (1 Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 4:11)

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14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

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15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (*Psalms 7:14, Isaiah 59:4, Romans 5:12, 6:23*)

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16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. (*Galatians 6:7, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*)

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17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (*John 3:27, Numbers 23:19*)

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18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. (*John 1:12-13, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 1:3-5*)

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**Application Questions:**

- How much are you tempted to blame other people or circumstances for your own sin? What have you learned in this lesson about that tendency?
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- How would it change your life today (specifically and practically) if you could remember in each moment that the old you is dead and that God has given you a new nature (2 Cor. 5:17), one that loves God and hates sin?
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**Homework:** *Pick one verse from this lesson that has proven especially meaningful to you. Commit it to memory.*