

WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?

Message Notes

The greatest key to Christian victory

“Where you look is where you go”

So, where are you looking?

Are you sin-conscious or righteousness conscious?

Text: James 1:13-16

“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

In these verses James is teaching on where we are to focus if we are to live in victory & the goodness of God...

1. Focused on Sin (sin-conscious)

“Dragged away” by evil desires

Gk. exelko = a lure (fishing / hunting)

Our evil desires lure us / entice us / tempt us and when *“desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”*

Death = all the miseries arising from sin including the loss of a life consecrated to God and blessed in him on earth

Death to self or death of self

We shouldn't take sin lightly. When we sin we need to deal with it, confess it and then move on in forgiveness and grace. But don't focus on it; don't be sin-conscious because...

“Where you look is where you go”

Consider these Scriptures:

1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Psalm 32:5, *“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

Psalm 51:2, *“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin”* (and all of Psalm 51)

Proverbs 28:13, *“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”*

Isaiah 55:6-7, *“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”*

Ezekiel 18:30-32, *“Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”*

Psalm 103:2-3, 12, *“Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”*

Micah 7:18-19, *“Where is another God like you, who pardons guilt, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love. Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!”*

Romans 4:7-8, *“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”*

If you find yourself caught in some habitual sin you'll find it helpful to find one or two friends as a safe place to confess your sin and to stand strong with you as you regain victory...

James 5:16, *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

"Where you look is where you go"

2. Focused on Righteousness (righteousness-conscious)

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Resisting Deception (*Don't be deceived*)

Sin is deception (we deceive ourselves that we are missing out)

Focus on relationship (righteousness)

"The Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"

When we focus on righteousness, that is, the relationship we have with our Father because of Jesus, we reap all the good and perfect gifts that come with that relationship...

2 Corinthians 5:21, *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

“Where you look is where you go”

Where are you looking?