

“Does your Christianity make any Difference?”
Strangled by Sin, part 1
James 1.13-15
February 7, 2016

A quick word on temptation

- 1. Precisely when a certain level of spiritual maturity seems to have been attained or some victory has occurred, temptation comes more strongly.**
- 2. Every temptation begins in the mind.**
- 3. The enemy’s names describe his tactics.**

The Nature of Sin

- 1. If you are trapped in sin, it’s because you chose to be there.**

† If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you have a new nature.

† But you still have what the Bible calls flesh – sinful desires, lusts, misguided passions, self-centeredness – and you will fight that flesh until the day you die.

† There are two warring factions: your new nature that desires to do life God’s way, and your flesh that lusts.

† And we choose the winner by whom we rely upon.

† Sin has no intrinsic power over a believer; it only has granted power.

† For the believer, sin has no power of its own – Jesus broke that power.

2. When you are caught in your sin, that's mercy.

† Being caught in your sin is the chance to avoid death!

3. For one in the stranglehold of sin, the big problem is not the act of sin itself; the big problem is that there is something taking God's place.

† A person in the stranglehold of sin has this as his big problem: looking to some person or something to find security and significance.

† No matter what sin stronghold we have, we have it because we are trying to substitute something for God

Out of Sin's Stranglehold

1. You are spiritually bankrupt without Jesus' power applied to your life. And until you apply His power, sin will always be your master.

2. Our tools for defeating temptation and sin are Scripture and the Holy Spirit.