

## THE BATTLE OF WILLS

1. Read James 1:12–19a. God is never the source of temptation to evil. (verse 13) Of what things is He the source? (verses 5, 16–18)
2. From what you know about God’s nature, why is it impossible that God could be responsible for your being tempted to do evil? (See also 1 John 1:5; 4:8–10.)
3. What is the real source of temptations to sin? (verse 14)
  - a. What is the ultimate result? (verse 15)
  - b. The truth of verse 15 is an unavoidable law, as certain as the law of gravity. Think about the source of life. Why must desiring evil lead to death? (Isaiah 59:2; 1 John 1:5–7, 5:11–13)
4. There are two alternate progressions of life that James describes in the first 19 verses. Fill in the blanks:  
Faith  $\Rightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\Rightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\Rightarrow$  maturity (1:2–4)  
Desire  $\Rightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\Rightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\Rightarrow$  death (1:14–15)
5. How did Jesus urge His disciples to deal with temptation? (Matthew 6:13; 26:41) How might this apply to you?
6. God is the source of “every good and perfect gift”. (verse 17) What gifts would be helpful in dealing with one’s evil desires? (verse 5; Luke 11:11–12)
7. Have you ever had to depend on someone who changed like shifting shadows, so you could never be sure what they might do? Why is it important to you that God isn’t like that? (verse 17)
8. Meditate on God’s constancy. How does it affect your attitudes, feelings, and choices?