

THRIVE:

Confronting the War
Within

James 1:13-18



1 Peter 2:11

Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and strangers in the world to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.



James 1:13-14

When tempted , no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil , nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire , he is dragged away and enticed.



My Enemy is Within

- Temptations arouse my desires.
- Aroused desires ignite my “hidden” inclinations.
- Indulging my inclinations require me to justify my choices.



My Enemy is Within

James 1:15

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.



My Enemy is Within

- Temptations arouse my desires.
- Aroused desires ignite my “hidden” inclinations.
- Indulging my inclinations require me to justify my choices.
- There will be casualties.



I Have More than One Enemy

Ephesians 2:1-2

... You were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is at work in those who are disobedient.



I Have More than One Enemy

- Satan knows our stories.
- Satan captures our attention with temptations that appeal to our needs and arouse our longings.
- Satan shames and condemns us.



In This War, Our Father is Our Victory

James 1:16-18

Don't be deceived my dear brothers. Every good and perfect give is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

