

# The Good, the bad, and the guilty

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Becoming an Adamant Believer requires maturity. We must mature in the area of recognizing our short comings and knowing what we are guilty of vs. what the devil is guilty of. We can't blame the devil for the things we do and we can't blame God for all our hardships.

In order to fully understand the good, the bad, and who's guilty, we must understand where the conflict starts and who causes or allows it.

## The Conflict:

- You - First Fruit of Creation
- The Adversary - Seeks to destroy you
- The Advocate - A person who pleads on someone else's behalf

**Who are we?** -We are God's creation, created in his image (sons of God) in his likeness (creators) and given dominion (authority) and choice (free will). **Gen. 1:26** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

**Who is our adversary?** -Satan is our enemy and desires to kill, steal, and destroy us. He walks about as a roaring lion seeking to destroy the weak and selfish. **1Pet. 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your*

*adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

**Who is our advocate?** - Jesus Christ is our advocate. He came to die for the penalty of our sins and plead our case to the Father. **1John 2:1** *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*

**James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

*-if you make it through, you will be rewarded and blessed. Only after the conflict will you see the blessing.*

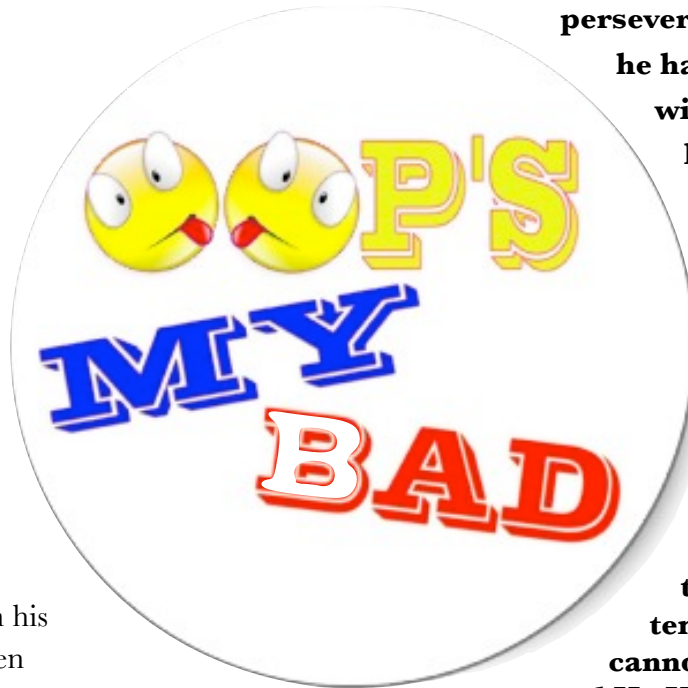
**James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt**

**anyone.**

*-in order for God to tempt you he would have to be a tempter. Because there is no evil in him, he cannot be evil!*

**James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.**

*-because of Adam's sin, we are all born into sin, and shaped by iniquity. The devil seeks to take you where your lust will go unchallenged. Lust is not just sexual. People lust for power, wealth, popularity, and even perfection.*



**James 1:15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

**James 1:16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

*-Know who you are fighting and which side is which. fight with Christ and against Satan.*

**James 1:17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

*-The good things come from God, the bad things from the devil. But what seems good to you may be bad for you. And what seems bad may be good for you. Knowing God will show you which is which!*

**James 1:18** In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

*-We are the prize. We are in his likeness and image. We are more like Him than any other creature.*

**Luke 22:31** "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;

**Luke 22:32** but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Jesus did not rebuke the devil but rather prayed for Peter. He knew this was a process that had to occur to get him where he needed to be.

- The threshing of wheat is a painful process and God does not do the threshing, but rather uses the wheat after the adversary has sifted it.
- The devil set up Peter, but it was Peter's own lust or desire that tempted him. **Luke 22:24** *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.*

**Summary** - Some things tempt you and other things do not. It's based on your lust for it. If you lust for success, you will be tempted by it. If you lust for sex, you will be tempted by it. If you lust for power, you will be tempted by it. If you lust for money, you will be tempted by it. The things we chase in this life will eventually lead us into sin. This is why we should only chase after God and his perfect will for us. It's important to die completely of your desires so that God can give you what to desire. This will help you avoid lust, sin, and death. And we must mature as believers and understand that the devil is limited to our own lust so we cannot blame him for our shortcomings. We have the power to overcome the temptation!

**Luke 10:19** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:

