

Temptation



"Temptations are never so dangerous as when they come to us in a religious garb."

D.L. MOODY



PRAY FIRST: O Father, thou art enthroned to hear my prayers, O Jesus, thy hand is outstretched to take my petitions, O Holy Spirit, thou art willing to help my infirmities, to show me my need, to supply words, to pray within me, to strength me that I faint not in supplication.

Understanding the Truth

Discussion:

- If the devil wanted to lure you into sin, what areas of your life would be bait on his hook?

Truths About Temptation

- A. According to 1 Corinthians 10:13, what is evident about temptation?

- B. According to James 1:13, does God tempt us? Why or why not?

Temptation vs. Testing

To tempt is to test, try, prove, or solicit to do evil, and will often lead to sin. Testing is designed to prove the quality of one's true character. All believers face temptation from three common enemies. What are they?

- John 15:17-19
- Galatians 5:17
- 1 Peter 5:8

Three Areas of Temptation

- A. **THE WORLD**—The world is a system of living and thinking on earth, led by Satan, that promotes independence from God.

1. How does the Apostle John define the world in 1 John 2:16?
 - a. _____ (Fleshly Appetites)
 - b. _____ (Materialism)
 - c. _____ (Status/Pride)

2. According to James 4:4-5 and 2 Timothy 4:10, what is the result of befriending worldly things?

3. Every temptation faced by believers falls into one of three categories: flesh, materialism, and pride. Read Matthew 4:1-11. See if you can find them in Christ's temptations.

B. **THE FLESH**—This is not your body, but the sin principle within your nature that desires to go its own way.

1. According to Romans 7:18, how did the Apostle Paul view the flesh?
2. According to Galatians 5:17, why is the flesh considered an enemy?
3. According to Galatians 5:19-21, what are the characteristics of our sinful flesh?

C. **THE DEVIL**—This is that sinister minister of evil who controls this present world system.

1. According to John 10:10, what is one of Satan's purposes?
2. What does Revelation 12:17 indicate that the devil seeks to accomplish?

Satan uses three primary tactics on the believer today: (1) *persecution*, (2) *contamination*, and (3) *deception*.

Overcoming the Temptation

Although believers will never live on this earth or in these bodies without temptation, Scripture gives direction to overcome it daily.

A. What promise is given in 1 Corinthians 10:13?

Remember, temptation in itself is not sin. It only becomes sin when the desire for it is found in our hearts and/or we yield to it. (*James 1:14-15*)

B. What is our responsibility regarding temptation, according to these verses?

1. James 4:7: _____
2. 1 John 2:15: _____
3. Romans 13:14: _____
4. Ephesians 4:27: _____
5. Psalm 119:11: _____
6. 2 Timothy 2:22: _____
7. Galatians 5:16: _____
8. Romans 12:2: _____

Embracing the Truth

Knitting the truth of God's Word into our lives



- According to Galatians 5:16, what are we told to do in order to overcome the *flesh*?
- According to John 16:33 and 1 John 2:15, what are we told to do in order to overcome the *world*?
- According to James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:8-9, what are we told to do in order to overcome the *devil*?
- Write down an area where you are being tempted at this time:

Look at the previous list of verses and find which one applies to your area of temptation. Commit the verse to memory this week and apply it when you are tempted.

APPLICATION

Spend some time right now applying the ACTS model in prayer.

- A - Adoration**—What do you adore about God?
- C - Confession**—What sins do you need to confess?
- T - Thanksgiving**—What can you thank God for today?
- S - Supplication**—What needs do you and others have?



ACCOUNTABILITY

Placing yourself in transparent and accountable relationships

How are you doing in the area of **HEALTH** and **WELLNESS**?

- Assess your eating and exercise this past week:

(Unstable) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (Stable)

Obeying the Truth—your mission this week

Engaging the lost through word and deed with the intention of imparting the Gospel



- Establish healthy boundaries by identifying things that tempt you to disobey God. Share these boundaries with a strong Christian.
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MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."



EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE VAULT

Owen, John. "Temptation".n.p. <http://www.biblebb.com/files/owen/Owen-Temptations.htm>. Web. n.d.
Brooks,Thomas. "*Helps Against Temptations*". Monergism. <https://www.monergism.com/helps-against-temptation>.
Web. n.d.

Truths about Temptation

- A. it is common to man
- B. no, God cannot be tempted and does not tempt anyone

Temptation vs. Testing

- John 15:17-19: the world
- Galatians 5:17: the flesh
- 1 Peter 5:8: the devil

Three areas of temptation

A. THE WORLD

1. How does the Apostle John define the world in 1 John 2:16?
 - a. lust of the flesh
 - b. lust of the eyes
 - c. boastful pride of life
2. you become an enemy of God and desert the things of God
3. v.3 (flesh), vv.5-6 (pride), vv.8-9 (materialism)

B. THE FLESH

1. no good
2. it opposes the Spirit
3. immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these

C. THE DEVIL

1. steal, kill, and destroy
2. make war with Christians

Overcoming the temptation

A. God will provide a way of escape

B.

1. James 4:7: submit to God and resist the devil
2. 1 John 2:15: do not love the world
3. Romans 13:14: make no provision for the flesh in regard to lust
4. Ephesians 4:27: do not give the devil an opportunity
5. Psalm 119:11: treasure God's Word in your heart
6. 2 Timothy 2:22: flee from lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace
7. Galatians 5:16: walk by the Spirit
8. Romans 12:2: do not be conformed to this world, but renew your mind

Embracing the Truth

- walk by the Spirit
- refuse to love it and abide in Jesus
- resist the devil

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.