

TEMPTATION

I Cor. 10:13

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INTRODUCTION

1. Living a life of righteousness is not a “bed of roses”.
2. It is a constant fight against the Devil who uses temptation as a means to overcome us.
3. Jesus warned about man’s weakness of being overcome with temptation – Matt. 26:41.

I. WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

- a. Temptation is the enticing or inducement to yield to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life – I John 2: 15 – 17; James 1:14.
- b. One has the same desires after he becomes a Christian that he had before he became a Christian.
- c. A Christian does not receive any “second blessing of grace” that removes all temptation as some denominations teach.
- d. Temptation to evil is explained in James 1: 14 – 15:
 - i. TWO things happen within man himself:
 1. *“He is drawn away of his own lust”*
 2. *“Lust conceives”*
 - ii. We learn there is something in man that corresponds to that which is set before him; man’s capacity to desire is a faculty given by God.
 - iii. Man’s desires are proper and right within law, but wrong when they disregard law.
 - iv. Man’s desire for food, sex, and possessions are not wrong when these desires are lawfully fulfilled.
 - v. Lust conceives when it becomes so strong that the will of man chooses to divorce itself from the will of God and becomes identified with his own will; as man’s will ceases to be controlled by God’s will, that certain conception will occur and when this happens the end is overt transgression of God’s law.
- e. Someone might ask, “Is it a sin to be tempted, or is it to feel the force of temptation?”
 - i. The answer is “No”, Jesus was tempted and felt the force of temptation, but he did not sin – Matt. 4: 1- 10; Heb. 4:15.
 - ii. It was no sin for Jesus to desire food, but to satisfy that natural desire in an unlawful way would have been sin.

II. THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION

- a. Temptation is not from God – James 1: 13 – 14.
- b. It is from Satan – I Cor. 7:5; Matt. 4:1.
- c. Satan’s avenues of sin – I John 2:15 – 16
 - i. Lust of the flesh
 - ii. Lust of the eye
 - iii. Pride of life
- d. Satan hunts our weakness of the flesh – Matt. 26:41 – and tempts us through these avenues.

- e. Satan's approach to Christ:
 - i. After a 40 day fast, he struck at the appetite – Matt. 4:3.
- f. Paul said Satan would bring about unfaithfulness to the marriage bed if there was a defraud on the part of the companions – I Cor. 7:5.
- g. Tempted from within – James 1: 14.
- h. God has provided right and good ways in which these desires of the body can be fulfilled and not sin.

III. NO TEMPTATION IS INSURMOUNTABLE

- a. Only such as is "*common to man*" – I Cor. 10:13.
- b. With every temptation that is "*common to man*", God will make a way to escape if we will use it – I Cor. 10:13; 2 Pet. 2:9.
 - i. We must do the escaping – I Cor. 10:13; I Cor. 6:18.

IV. HOW TO ESCAPE TEMPTATION

- a. "*Enter not into the path of the wicked*" – Prov. 4: 14 – 16; 1: 10 – 16.
- b. "*Abstain from all appearance of evil*" – I Thess. 5:22.
- c. "*Watch and pray*" – Matt.26: 41
- d. Strong purpose – Dan. 1:8.
- e. Flee from all sin – 2 Tim. 2:22; I Cor. 6:18; 10:14.
- f. We must resist the Devil – James 4:7.
- g. Give the devil no place – Eph. 4:27.
- h. Must be arrayed in the whole armor – Eph. 6:11.
- i. Avoid bad company – I Cor. 15:33.
- j. Don't forsake the assemblies – Heb. 10 :23 – 25.
- k. Be busy in God's service – I Cor. 15:58.
- l. We have the same weapon Jesus used – "*IT IS WRITTEN*" – Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.
 - i. If tempted to revenge, "*It is written*" – Rom. 12:19.
 - ii. If tempted to commit fornication, "*It is written*" – I Cor. 6:18.
 - iii. If tempted to steal, "*It is written*" – Eph. 4:28.
 - iv. If tempted to wear immodest dress, "*It is written*" – I Tim. 2:9.

V. CONCLUSION

- a. TEMPTATION is not sin – YEILDING IS SIN.
- b. We should have the courage of Joseph – Gen. 39: 7 – 12.
- c. James 1:12