

TEMPTATION

Purpose: To answer some questions posed about temptation, and learn how to beat it!

Introduction.

1. What is it?
2. Who will face it?
3. How can we overcome it?
4. Why bother?

Discussion.

I. What is temptation?

- A. Tempt- To try to persuade one to do wrong by promising pleasure or advantage.
- B. Temptation is a situation that could cause one to break God's laws, by doing that which is wrong.
 1. For one to even do wrong, implies a standard of right.
 2. The Word is the standard for all.
 3. It will judge us. Jn. 12.48

II. Who must face temptation?

- A. Let's look to the Bible for examples.
 1. Eve. *Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*
 2. Job. *Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.*
 3. Peter. *Matt. 26 Peter succumbed to tempt. By denying the Lord 3 times. Gal 2:11-12 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.*

4. Jesus himself. Matt. 4
5. Paul summed it all up. *1 Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
6. Temptation is common to all men. But we have hope to overcome because of the latter part of this verse. He will “make a way of escape”.

III. How can temptations be withstood?

- A. *Mat. 26:41 Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.*
 1. Watch. *Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,*
 - a. Don't get the idea that you are bullet proof as a Christian. *1 Cor 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*
 2. Pray. We must take advantage of this blessing to overcome tempt.
 - a. Job teaches the effectiveness of prayer.
 - b. We might want to die in Job's shoes, his prayers kept him faithful.
 - c. For them to be acceptable we must pray in faith. *James 1:6-7 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*
 - d. We must ask in harmony with God's will. *1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*
 - e. Pray in the name of Jesus. *John 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*
- B. Hide the scriptures in our hearts.

1. Our Great Example did, to beat Satan.
2. 2 Tim. 2.15
3. Don't just know it, live it! *James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

C. Don't be ignorant of Satan devices.

1. *2 Cor 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*
2. He works through deception.
3. There is pleasure in sin. *Heb 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*
4. Satan doesn't come as a big, red monster with horns carrying a pitchfork in one hand a his long pointy tail in the other.
5. *2 Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*
6. Neither does sin appear evil on its face.

D. Give sin and Satan no place in our lives.

1. *Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.*
2. Keep ourselves busy with good works.
3. Spend time in study rather than in sin.
4. Separate from the worldliness of life. *2 Cor 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*
5. Don't condone the sin of others. *2 John 1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

6. Don't seek the riches of this world. *1 Tim 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

IV. Why should we fight temptation?

- A. God loved man enough to send His Son.
- B. Jesus loved us enough to come here and die the death of the cross.
- C. The Holy Spirit gave us the Word.
- D. God wants us to be holy.
- E. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments.
- F. We need to remember *1 John 2:17. " And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*

V. God has made provision since man does give in to temptation.

- A. Receive forgiveness through obedience.
 - B. Remain faithful until death.
1. Can we help you now?
 2. If so, come.