



Dealing with Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13 -- ...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, that you may be able to endure it.

Introduction

1. Temptation is the Biblical term for the seduction the world confronts us with in order to draw us into the things that are wrong.
2. If resisting temptation were really as easy as “Just saying, ‘No!’” then most of the Bible would not be necessary. On the contrary, temptation is such a strong and varied thing that even the details of this lesson just begin to address the problem.
3. We know that many temptations are very strong because they originally may have been sent to us as trials by God to help us develop and become stronger. If we do not grow to the tasks that God gives us, and shirk our responsibilities, then our trials overwhelm us and become our undoing.

A. The General Mechanics of the Problem

1. We learn from the Scriptures that temptations can arise from the healthy desires that God has given us. Maturity is learning to handle those desires in a proper way and knowing when they are about to become inordinate. Temptation is not “Adult” entertainment.
2. But even when that happens that things become inordinate, we understand that God is always around to help us out, to not only to provide valuable instruction from His Scriptures, but also to afford us precious opportunities to escape temptations when we succumb.

James 1:13-15 -- 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. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

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, that you may be able to endure it.

B. Levels of the Problem & Solutions

1. Ignorance of Sin

- a. **The World is Caught Up Because It Is Unsuspecting.** People die in the physical world many times because they do not understand how things work. They grab live wires or play with blasting caps or try to pet dangerous animals. The Spiritual world is the same. Men often begin a life of sin as unaware as they may begun a life of crime.

Ephesians 4:17-18 -- This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

1 Peter 1:14 -- As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.

Hosea 4:6 -- My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...

- b. **The Best Thing to Do is to Know the Word.** The more one understands what one is doing, the greater the chances are that one will survive harsh experiences. Where sin is concerned, there is no better manual than the Bible. Morality is not a thing of the past. It is the consequence of the lack of power to resist. If immorality does not become outdated, then neither does the will to resist it, nor the power of God.

Ephesians 5:17 -- So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

2. Ways of Resisting Sin

- a. **Start with Asking God to Help.** God is a loving Father, and it is a Father's pride if His children ask Him for His help.

Mark 14:38 -- "Keep watching and praying, that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 6:9,13 -- "Pray, then, this way... 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil [Literally the evil one].'"

- b. **Overcome Negative Addictions with Positive Ones.** The bad habits we form run deep. Of necessity, new good habits must be formed so that we do NOT easily swing back into a former rut.

James 4:7-10 -- Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

- c. **Maintain Proper Conduct.** God's instruction on how to do something is our protection from evil, giving us a proper outlet for our needs. It is when we try to circumvent these that life begins to slip away.

1 Corinthians 7:5 -- Stop depriving one another... lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

3. When to Just Get Out of There

- a. **Learn from Others to Look After Yourself.** If your family is dysfunctional, talk with those who seem to have figured it out. Learn from other's mistakes. A smart man learns from his own mistakes. A wise man learns from those mistakes of others.

Galatians 6:1 -- Brethren, even if a man is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

- b. **Apply the Ounce of Prevention.**

Ephesians 4:27 -- And do not give the devil an opportunity.

2 Corinthians 10:5 -- We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

- c. **Avoid Ambushes.**

1 Corinthians 6:18 -- Flee immorality...

1 Timothy 6:11 -- But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men to ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things...

C. God's Concern and Aid

Hebrews 2:18 -- For since He Himself was tempted in that which He suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 -- For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

2 Peter 2:9 -- Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.