



FOUNDATION BIBLE SCHOOL ARCHIVES

TOPIC: TEMPTATION “*peirasmos*”

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The secret of overcoming sin in our lives is to focus on defeating the temptations you face.

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OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS

What is temptation?

Temptation" is from the Greek noun *peirasmos*, which can refer to trials or tests with a beneficial purpose or effect or to trials or tests designed to lead to wrong doing. The outcome depends on how the tempted person reacts. It is an attraction, either from outside oneself or from within, to act contrary to right reason and the commandments of God.

Origin of Temptation (Original Sin)



The first temptation was not with Adam and Eve, but Satan's fall in Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:11-17; and Rev 12:4,7-9. The fallen angel Lucifer who was perfect in all his ways was tempted to overthrow God as the supreme ruler in

heaven but ended up failing thereby bringing damnation upon himself.

One of the first stories in Genesis is the serpent tempting Eve and Adam. The first human couple were satisfied with their lives in Eden, as the Bible tells us, until the serpent, as an avatar of the devil, appeared to tempt them:

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.” Genesis 3:4-6

Adam and Eve fell for the temptations that come from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life thereby forfeiting their perfect nature and sinned against God.

Difference between God's Testing and Temptation

God does not tempt us but God does test us, or a better way to put it is that He entrusts us. What's the difference? Temptation is being enticed or allured to sin. God will not tempt us with sin because He is good and no evil is found in Him (James 1:13-15). Temptation does not come from God, but comes from our own sinful desires. When tempted, no one should say,

“God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death (James 1:13-14).

Testing, on the other hand, is God trusting us to make the right choice. God tests us in order to strengthen us but our own evil desires tempt us in order to destroy us. God permits the devil to tempt but He will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist (1 Corinthians 10:13).

“And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” (Zec.13:9)

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”(1Peter 1:7).

So where does temptation come from? We are "lured and enticed" by our own desires. These desires can lure us to be tempted to find a "quicker" or "more efficient" way to meet those needs and wants that does not come from God or lead to God's best for us.

Old Testament Temptations



Other temptations in the Old Testament include Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Joseph was a Hebrew slave in the Egyptian court, tasked with taking care of everything belonging to Potiphar. Potiphar's wife demanded he come to her bed and when he refused, he was thrown into jail, "But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden." (Genesis 39:6-9).

King David was tempted by Satan into running a census on how many fighting men he had, rather than trusting in God. God's displeasure was exercised by instituting a plague on Israel (2 Samuel 24, 1 Chronicles 21).

One of the best-known story is Daniel in the lion's den at the court of Darius, the great Mesopotamian king. Daniel was a Hebrew and a favorite of Darius's and he had many enemies at court. Those enemies urged Darius to

- **Avoid all things that might lead to compromising situations and sin.** Since temptations also come from our own desires, we should avoid doing any act that will bring about temptations. One of the reasons why temptations come is because people remain idle. Remember, an idle mind is the Devil's workshop. This allows a person thought to be flooded with temptations.

"Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (Rom. 13:13-14)"And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." (Matt. 5:29)

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy meditate on these things." (Phil. 4:8)

- **We need to always remind ourselves of the consequences of sin and that sinners cannot inherit the kingdom of God.**

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21)"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)

- **Be vigilant in the last days, as the temptations and snares will only increase nearer to the end.**

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:34-36)

even for a second. Jesus Christ told his disciples that was with him before his arrest to watch and pray so that they would not enter into temptation. Just like the prophet Daniel, when temptation arises, we should look back to God and ask for divine help.

“Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.” (Matt. 26:41, Mark 14:38)

- **Use the word of God to battle temptations** just as Jesus did when he



was asked to turn stone into bread. Keep his word close to our hearts. Memorize God's Word. Filling our minds with the thoughts of God and having them readily available to us is very wise.

“Thy word have I hid in mine

heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psa. 119:11)

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4:4)

- **God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist.** He

knows our limit and he has given us sufficient tools to our disposal. “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.” (1 Cor. 10:13)

- **Do not be discouraged when you are faced with temptations,** God is doing his work in you because those who do not yield to temptations will be rewarded.

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” (Jam, 1:2-3)

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” (Jam, 1:12)

implement a new law that said, “Anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.” Daniel responded to this new law by praying to God about it, and Darius had him thrown into the lion's den:

“So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!” *Daniel 6:16*

Daniel survived this test

“And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.” *Daniel 6:23*

Daniel's opponents and their families were thrown into the lion's den and did not survive.

“Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: ‘May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.’” *Daniel 6:25–26*

New Testament Temptations

Temptation is also a large part of the New Testament stories, particularly within the story of Christ's last days on Earth. His apostle Judas was tempted into betraying Christ for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14–16); none of the apostles could stay awake to help Christ through the dark night before his arrest (Matthew 26:36–45); and after that arrest, Peter was tempted into denying Christ three times “before cockcrow” (Matthew 26:69–75)



Temptation of Christ

Jesus Christ was led into the wilderness by the Spirit where he was tempted of the devil and there he fasted 40 days and nights. Afterwards, the devil tried to take advantage of his hunger and humanity to tempt him.

“And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.” (Luke 4:3)

Satan offered Jesus Christ all the kingdoms of the world if only Christ would fall down and worship him.

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the

kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. (Luke 4:5-7)

The Devil also ordered Jesus to leap from the pinnacle of the Temple to demonstrate His power of saving Himself.

“And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. (Luke 4:9-11)”

What is the source of our temptations in life? The traditional answer has been: the world, the flesh, and the devil... and this is a biblically accurate picture of where sin and our temptations to sin are sourced. The apostle John wrote in 1 John 2:16. “For all that is in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Sin is looking to satisfy any desire apart from faith in God. For, as Romans 14:23 says, “whatever is not from faith is sin.” Apart from faith, everything we do is sin.



Standing Strong Again

Temptations are assumed to be sinful so people tend not to speak about their temptations because they are ashamed. Temptations in itself is not a sin but giving into it is. Everybody no matter how godly has and will undergo temptations. Even Jesus Christ

was tempted by the devil but the bible teaches us that Jesus never sinned, if temptation where to be a sin Jesus would have sinned by being tempted and that is contrary to what the bible teaches us.

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin.” (Heb. 4:15)

Temptations are normal and are experienced by everyone. It is

assumed that the more godly a person becomes, the less temptation he/she faces. Yet the most godly human Jesus was tempted in all ways. When the temptation arises, it is what we do with it that matters.

Temptations precede every single sin. If you can overcome temptation, it will not lead to sin. Desire leads to temptations and that temptation, leads to sin.

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” (Jam. 4:14-15).

When people fall into temptations and when they give into it, they have this fear that they have broken their soul and therefore cannot stand or walk with God anymore. That is the Devil at play, making one feel ashamed and that God will not hear us when we ask for forgiveness. God wants all sinners to come back to him so they may be saved.

How then can we handle temptations when they come?

- **Expect and be ready for temptation.** We need to be prepared for the Spiritual battle. Too often we fail at overcoming temptation because we aren't aware enough to understand that we're even being tempted in the given moment.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (Eph. 6:13)

- **When you are faced with temptation, run the other direction** as there are some temptations such as temptations of the flesh that we're too weak to overcome at times. The best way to be victorious in those moments is to simply walk away, run, flee.

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Tim.2:22)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (Jam.4:7)

- **Prayer strengthens us against temptation.** Learn to recognise when temptations come and quickly go back to God because He is close in the midst of your temptations and testing and He never leaves our side not