

## 1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 23

### Chapter 10:12-14: How to Deal with Temptation

24 November 2017

The Bible says that we will all face temptation in our Christian life because it is common to man. Thankfully, God never allows more temptation to come our way than we're able to overcome. The way of escape is always there; the key is in the timing of our response to the temptation. We'll observe this in Luke chapter 4, as the Lord Jesus shows us the way to escape temptation and send the Devil away in failure.

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**Luke 4:1** Jesus was **full of the Holy Ghost, led by the Spirit**, in fellowship with God. Nevertheless, He was led into the wilderness to be **tempted of the devil**. Conclusion:

- 1) It is not a sin to be tempted.
- 2) It is not possible to become so godly that you are exempt from temptation.
  - a. In fact, the godlier you are, the more you'll attract the Devil's attention.

**James 4:1-3** Why do Christians have so much trouble in their relationships with one another?

- 1) Not because of temptation, but because of our flesh. It needs to be subject to the will and control of God.
- 2) We keep trying to satisfy our lusts with the things of the world. If you gained the whole world, you'd still be dissatisfied. Only God can fully satisfy our every need.

**James 1:12-14** When we yield to sin, we can't blame the Devil, we can't blame God, we can only blame ourselves. The Devil can't make me sin; he can only present the temptation. God doesn't tempt me; he allows the test. What is the test? When presented with a temptation, do I love the Lord enough to deny my flesh and stay right with Him? Or, do I deny the Lord and take a detour off the godly path for a season?

**Heb. 12:1** Each one of us has a sin which doth so easily beset us. There is a certain sin that ensnares you more easily than any other sin.

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- 1 Cor. 10:13**
- 1) Any temptation you'll ever face is common to man; it's not unique.
  - 2) God is faithful. We are not. I can't trust myself in times of temptation, but I can trust God to get me through it.
  - 3) God will never allow the Devil to present me with a temptation that I cannot refuse.
    - a. That means that I'm responsible for every sin I've committed. I can't blame God, I can't blame you, and I can't blame the Devil. There's no excuse; when you sin, it's because you **CHOSE** to sin. If you say, "*I can't help it,*" you contradict this verse in the Bible. You must refuse to sin.
  - 4) God always provides a way of escape for every temptation you face.
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**1 Cor. 10:14** This verse clearly gives the reason any person ends up being led astray into sin by temptation. They lingered at the point of temptation. They thought about it for a moment. They didn't get away from it right away.

If we would run **AWAY** from trouble the moment it's presented, we wouldn't have to figure out how to get **OUT** of the trouble after we're snared by it.

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## **JESUS WAS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS (LUKE 4:1-14)**

- 1.** The Devil will first try to cast doubt on the word of God (vs 3), **“If thou be the Son of God.” “Yea hath God said?”** (Genesis 3:1). Don’t entertain a moment of doubt about the truth of God’s word.
  - 2.** The Devil will appeal to the lust of your flesh (vs 3, 1 John 2:16). You’re hungry; turn this stone into bread. Jesus certainly could have satisfied the hunger of his flesh, but His love for the Father enabled Him to deny his flesh.
  - 3.** Jesus answered immediately with Scripture (vs 4). He didn’t consider the temptation for a moment.
  - 4.** The Devil will appeal to the lust of the eyes (vs 5). **“The devil...shewed unto him all the kingdoms.”** “See what you could have?” Nothing the Devil can show you will ever satisfy you; you’ll always end up disappointed with the thing that tempted you and disappointed in yourself for sinning against God.
  - 5.** The Devil will open his bag of “gifts” and make his offer (vs 6). **“All this power will I give thee.”** You can be in charge! You’ll be respected by everyone! The Devil is the one who is presently allowed to hand out the crowns and the positions of authority. He’ll give a man the whole world if it will cause him to lose his soul.
  - 6.** Attached to everything that may tempt you, is a condition (**“if,”** vs 7). You make a choice to temporarily worship Satan instead of the Lord when you allow Satan to control your flesh. You are saying that the Devil offers something better than Jesus Christ.
  - 7.** Jesus took the way of escape without delay (vs 8), again looking to the Scripture.
  - 8.** The Devil will appeal to the pride of life (vss 9-11). He’ll give you an opportunity to be lifted up and get the recognition *“you deserve.”* The Devil’s desire was to ascend and take God’s place (Isa. 14:13). That pride resulted in his condemnation. Anyone who is exalted prematurely is in danger of falling into the same trap (1 Tim. 3:6). Be very concerned if you find yourself coveting the praise of men, wishing you could be somebody famous or somebody important that everybody looks up to.
  - 9.** Jesus used Scripture again, and was able to escape the temptation (vs) 12. This time the Devil left, but only **“for a season”** (vs 13). He always comes back.
  - 10.** The Devil has a three-point-plan that he’s been using on men and women for 6,000 years. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (Genesis 3:6, Luke 4, 1-14, 1 John 1:15-16). He doesn’t need a new plan because the old one still works best.
  - 11.** Jesus was led by the Spirit to a place where He was tempted (vs 1). Because He rejected the temptation, He was able to **“return in the power of the Spirit”** (vs 14). You will have more spiritual power and more blessings (James 1:12) when you resist temptation and take the way of escape. Not only that, but the Devil will flee from you (James 4:7).
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