

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 2

Lesson 31

ESCAPING TEMPTATION

6 March, 2015

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations” (vs. 9).

Those who DESIRE to live a godly life can be delivered out of temptations. Those who desire to sin cannot be delivered from it.

The key to victory from sin is to get the victory before you ever end up in sin. If we can get delivered out of temptations, we would never end up in sin.

LUKE 4:1-12

Jesus was filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit, and yet He was still tempted. That should teach us that you can't avoid being tempted. We CAN avoid sinning if we don't want to sin; if we want to be godly.

Temptation is: to be offered the opportunity to sin. Jesus was tempted. He never sinned (Heb. 4:15). He chose to stand on what the Scriptures said and did not even entertain the Devil's appealing offers.

You will have to face temptations all your life. The Devil only goes away for a season when you turn down his opportunities to sin.

Satan's goal is to make you violate the Word of God. It's very important that we know what it says. False teachers are working with the Devil to try and convince you to serve yourself while you claim to love the Lord.

MATTHEW 4:3

Satan is the tempter. He is trying to get you to displease God with the way you live your life and the decisions you make. The sin that we commit may seem insignificant at the moment, but in the big picture there are great consequences for that choice.

JAMES 1:12-16

The ultimate purpose of temptation is to see whether or not you truly love the one you're supposed to be devoted to. The crown of life is promised to them that LOVE HIM (Jesus). You prove you love Jesus when you are faithful to him and obey His commandments. You will not want to displease Him in any way.

You prove you love your spouse when you are tempted by another man/woman and you refuse to yield to that temptation. If you truly love your spouse, you will not sin against them. You will be faithful.

The Devil wants to tempt you to sin so that he can prove to God that you don't love Him.

JAMES 4:1-4

Christians often think they can mix worldly things into their Christian lives and have the best of both worlds. The Bible says you can't have both. If you love the things of the world, it proves you're an enemy of God. It shows you don't love Him.

The first way that the Lord delivers a believer out of temptation, is to honestly define what temptation is: It is a test to see if you have an unfaithful heart. But it's an opportunity to show the Lord that you love Him more than you love the lust of your flesh. Will you be faithful to your Lord and Savior who bought you with His precious blood?

There's no such thing as a "little sin." Your spouse wouldn't be happy to find out you were a "little" unfaithful. Neither is the Lord. We must view all sin as unfaithfulness to the One to whom we are eternally bound.

1 COR 10:12-13 All sin is common to man. It's all included in the same process of showing the Lord you love Him—or that you love something else more than Him.

God is faithful; man is not faithful. Therefore we're going to need some help to get through our temptations. If we try to deal with temptations by our own power or our own will, we will fail every time (vs. 12).

There's no excuse for yielding to temptation. You are never tempted "above that ye are able." God provides a way of escape. You can choose to take it, or you can choose to sin. The choice is yours, but you can't say the temptation was too big or too strong.

Are you tempted to sin? FLEE! (vs. 14). Just get away from it as fast as you can. Don't wonder about or contemplate what it would be like, etc. Get away from it before there's a chance you might yield to it—because you're not faithful; only God is faithful (vs. 13).

LUKE 4:9-11 The Devil is most effective when he tempts people who don't know the Bible. He tried misquoting Scripture to the Lord to give Him an alibi to sin, but the Lord, knowing the Scriptures, was not fooled.

Psalms 91:11-13 The Devil left OUT the words "**In all thy ways.**" The promise is that the Lord will keep you if you are walking in God's ways. If you're living your life according to your will and not God's will, there is no promise that God will keep you from falling into sin.

The Devil ADDED "Lest at ANY TIME" to give the illusion that God will not let you fall no matter what you do. But this promise is conditioned on a person walking in God's ways.

The Devil is looking for an opportunity to prove to God that you don't really love Him. Don't give him that pleasure.

JAMES 4:7 You can't resist the Devil and make him flee from you—unless you are fully submitted to God. Apart from the Lord you can't beat the Devil. Don't try it.

But if we're submitted unto God, He'll protect us and keep us pure. He knows how to get us away from sin just like he got Lot away from the sin of Sodom.

LUKE 4:1, 14 The second purpose of temptations: if you endure the temptation, you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, endured the temptation, and returned in the power of the Spirit.

The only way we can be an effective witness for the Lord and spread the "**fame of him through all the region round about**" is if we are living lives of victory over temptation. The Holy Spirit can use that to glorify Jesus.