

Temptation: What it is Not and What it is

Introduction:

Last Sunday we looked at sin as defined in the Bible and how we should deal with it. Today, I want to look at Temptation, what it is not and what it is. We must understand sin, but we also need to understand temptation and how it _____ to our sin. Understanding the nature of temptation should educate us reminding us that no matter how good temptation makes sin appear, it's a _____. The temptation to be stingy is an invitation from Satan to resist the generosity that reflects Jesus. The impulse to click on pornography is an invitation from Satan to grieve God for a quick rush of lust. The urge to hurry our prayers and neglect Bible reading is an invitation to trust our wisdom over God's. Temptation encourages our pride and tells us that our fleshly desires deserve to be gratified. Indulging in its fleeting gifts only leaves us empty and full of _____.

- I. The process by which temptation and sin work *Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. James 1:14-15*
- A. Sin is like a fisherman who baits his fishing hook with an attractive lure. The lure then floats a long in front of us, and our sinful flesh is _____.
- B. We crave what God _____ and give ourselves convincing reasons why we should yield:
1. "One look won't hurt."
 2. "You'll _____ out if you don't."
 3. "It's not a big deal."
 4. "God will forgive you."
 5. "Just this _____ time."
 6. "You deserve this."
- C. When we _____ to our evil desires instead of God's Spirit, then sin becomes a reality in our life.
1. Sin rewards us with an initial _____ of enjoyment and sense of satisfaction.
 2. But that sense of fulfillment is eventually replaced with _____ and shame if we are a Christian.
 3. If we resist our regret over our sin and refuse to _____, sin's influence in us grows like a cancerous tumor in the soul, and we can become calloused to God.
 4. Inevitably, death to our _____ with God results.
- D. Temptation, therefore, is not a friendly voice but a _____ invitation.
- II. Temptation is _____:
- A. Temptation is not a _____ **Matthew 4:1-11**
1. Jesus was _____ by Satan in a time when he was weakened by his 40 days fast and prayer.
 2. Satan attacked Jesus immediately after he has been spending _____ time with His Father.
 3. Satan attacked Jesus with the lust of the _____ (Vs 3), the pride of live (Vs 6), and the lust of the _____ (Vs 8-9)
 4. Yet in all the temptations, Jesus _____ yielded or committed sin because he has been tempted by Satan. *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15*
 5. In each temptation, Jesus _____ Satan by the power of the Holy Spirit (Vs 1), and the Word of God (Vs 4, 7, 10), being alive in his personal life.
- B. Temptation is not spiritual immaturity **Philippians 3:12**
1. _____ temptation is not always evidence of immaturity.

2. Just because temptation continually haunts believers doesn't mean they aren't becoming more like Jesus.
 3. Until we see Jesus, we will continue to _____ with the temptation.
 - 4; Scripture repeatedly warns us _____ to give in to temptation.
 - a. God warned Cain, *Sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.* **Genesis 4:7**
 - b. Paul told the Ephesian church: *Be angry and do not sin.* **Ephesians 4:26**
 - c. Jesus taught us to pray "*lead us not into temptation!*" because he is eager to help us _____ it. **Matthew 6:13**
 - d. It is possible, by the power of the Spirit, to be tempted by sin and _____ give in. **Romans 6**
- C. Temptation is not _____ and is not irresistible *No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.* **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- III. Temptation is an _____ from satan **Genesis 3:1-5**
- A. **Genesis 3** records the fall of humanity into sin and it began with temptation. *Did God actually say?* **Genesis 3:1.**
1. His invitation to know "good and evil" in a way that was "like God" seemed _____ to people who were not in bondage.
 2. **Genesis 3:5** He led her _____ away from a "sincere and pure devotion" to God. *But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.* **2 Corinthians 11:3**
- B. Through temptation, Satan _____ us to sin against God while promising happiness apart from obeying God.
1. He calls us to forsake God's provision and _____ it with a short-lived pleasure.
 2. He attracts us to sin and _____ assures us, like he did Eve, that *You will not surely die.* **Genesis 3:4**
 3. Meanwhile God's Word tells us *Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.* **1 Peter 2:11**
- IV. God has a _____ plan.
- A. His plan leads to _____. *"Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. 14 How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it."* **Matthew 7:13-14**
- B. Everything he promises comes _____. *God is not a man, that he should lie; Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?* **Numbers 23:19**
- C. Everything he gives is _____. *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.* **James 1:17**
- D. His _____ is to a life of abundance now and forevermore. *The thief (satan) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* **John 10:10**

Conclusion: Remember: *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 Corinthians 10:13**