

TEMPTATIONS

1. Temptation is the attempt by the Adamic nature in our flesh, the world system, or Satanic influence to draw a believer from righteous, honorable, Spirit-filled living into sin, human good, or evil thinking.
 - A. Purpose: The purpose of this attempt is to get the believer to agree with the world system and work for it rather than representing Christ to mankind.
 - B. Satan draws believers away from their intended mission by tempting them to disobey God's Word and live in arrogance.
 - C. In arrogance the believer represents the satanic way of thinking rather than Christ-like thinking and he becomes a casualty in the angelic conflict.
 - D. The Devil is the tempter, Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5.
2. Every believer should realize that all temptations are allowed by God but not caused by God.
 - A. There is a way of escape provided by God called "doctrine" which must be applied to the situation to pass the test, 1 Corinthians 10:13. We can bear what the world throws at us if we will use doctrine and reject what we hear.
 - B. God permits temptations: Luke 22:28; Acts 20:19; James 1:2; 1 Peter 1:6; 4:12; 2 Peter 2:9; James 1:12; Revelation 3:10.
 1. Luke 22:28, the Lord allows you to be tempted to see who are your true friends and loyal followers if you are a leader.
 2. Acts 20:19, temptations come to see if you are strong enough to continue a ministry, service, or responsibility you have been given, even when it means humility, tears and trials. There are those who will plot to destroy your life.
 3. James 1:2, the right attitude to have is one of counting it all joy when we encounter trials.
 4. James 1:12, happinesses to the man who perseveres under various trials, for once he has been approved he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

5. 1 Peter 1:6, we are protected by the power of God through faith so when we go through temptations and trials we must understand that they are only temporary and our inheritance in Christ is eternal.
 6. 1 Peter 4:12, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you, but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.”
 7. 2 Peter 2:9, God rescues the godly from temptation through doctrinal frame of reference, which helps that person to avoid the evil things being promoted by evil men, false teachers.
 8. Revelation 3:10, believers do not have to go through the Tribulation because they will be raptured out. Therefore, the greatest hour of temptation will be the Tribulation and we will avoid it.
3. Believers are commanded to pray that they would not be led into temptations which would destroy their Christian life, testimony, and hurt the ones they love, Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 22:40, 46.
 4. Many times Christ’s enemies tried to ensnare Him in His speech, Matthew 16:1; 19:3; 22:18, 35; John 8:6.
 5. When we find a believer in sin, human good, or some form of arrogance then we are to challenge them to repent and avoid it, Galatians 6:1.
 6. Challenging God is a temptation for believers when things do not go their way; they ask God “Why?” “Why me God?” “It’s not fair,” or “I thought You loved me,” etc.
 - A. Acts 15:20, they denied the power of the gospel to the Gentiles through Paul.
 - B. 1 Corinthians 10:9, tempting the Lord and many died the sin unto death, Numbers 21:5 ff.
 - C. Hebrews 3:9, the Jews tempted God in the wilderness through rejecting Moses’ teaching and Aaron’s leading.
 - D. Acts 5:9, lying to the Holy Spirit or an apostle brings discipline for it is

tempting God to approve of sin.

7. God Himself cannot be tempted with sin, for His justice will not allow it, James 1:13-15.
8. Paul's physical problems with eye failure, epilepsy, and other physical handicaps were a temptation to converts in Galatia. Galatians 4:14. They were turned off to his problems and thought because of them that he could not teach them what they needed to know about the Lord.
 - A. In the ancient world one would spit when an invalid or handicapped person would walk by.
 - B. People were tempted to think they were superior to him due to physical handicaps.