

Dealing With Temptations

James 1:2-4

1

Temptations

All are subject to temptations. Luke 17:1

- ▶ No person is immune. 2 Timothy 3:12
- ▶ Manifold temptations. 1 Peter 1:6
 - Not the same for all. "Wiles" (Ephesians 4:14; 6:11)
 - Numerous devices. (2 Corinthians 2:5-11)
- ▶ Your case is not unique. cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 4:15-16
 - Rich or poor. James 1:9-11
 - Young or old. Titus 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:22

2

Temptations

Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptation is not sin. cf. Proverbs 1:10
- ▶ Sin is committed when desire controls. cf. James 1:13-15
 - God does not tempt us; He cannot be blamed for our failures.
- ▶ *epithumia*, "desire, craving, longing."
 - Good or bad determined by context. Luke 22:15; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:17; James 1:14-15
 - Consider Joseph. Genesis 39:7-13
 - Consider David. 2 Samuel 11:1-27

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Temptations

Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Jesus was tempted. Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1-11
 - Weary. John 4:6
 - Thirsty. John 4:7; 19:28
 - Hungry. Matthew 4:2
 - Because he was tempted, he is able to help us. Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15; cf. 5:2

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Temptations

Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ Temptations are not punishment. cf. Hebrews 12:7-11
- ▶ Faith is proved or tested. 1 Peter 1:6; 4:12
- ▶ Success results in patience ... Hope. James 1:3, 12; Romans 5:3-5
- ▶ James 1:4 - May be "*perfect*" *teleion* "properly, brought to its end, finished; lacking nothing necessary to completeness; perfect." (Thayer)
- ▶ No temptation greater than we can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9

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Help With Temptation

God's word rightly applied.

2 Timothy 2:15; Jeremiah 10:23

- ▶ Psalms 119:9, "*Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed (thereto) according to thy word.*"
- ▶ Psalms 119:11, "*Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.*"
- ▶ Psalms 119:105, "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path.*"
- ▶ Proverbs 4:5, "*Get wisdom, get understanding; Forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth.*"
- ▶ Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus used the Scriptures.

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"Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth." Ecclesiastes 12:1

- ▶ Joseph. Genesis 39
- ▶ David. 1 Samuel 17
- ▶ Daniel. Daniel 1
- ▶ Jesus was 12, when he *"must be about my Father's business."* Luke 2:42-49 (KJV); cf. Luke 2:52
- ▶ NO TIME FOR WILD OATS. Galatians 6:7-8

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Help With Temptation

"Keep thy heart with all diligence: For out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23

- ▶ Attitudes control conduct. Luke 6:45; cf. Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21-23
 - No external police can do this!
- ▶ Focus on things above. Colossians 3:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:1-3
 - Happiness not dependant upon externals.
- ▶ "Sow a thought and reap the deed; Sow a deed and reap a habit; sow a habit and reap the consequences." (author unknown)

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Help With Temptation

Worship God regularly in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

- ▶ *"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."* (Psalms 84:10)
 - Emphasis not on duration, but intensity of joy.
 - The sincerity of your worship makes all the difference. John 4:24; Psalms 122:1
 - Satisfaction to the soul. cf. Hebrews 10:24-25
 - More to this than most realize!

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Help With Temptation

Watch the company you keep. Proverbs 1:10
"My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not."

- Be careful of peer pressure. cf. Psalms 1:1
- ▶ Can't choose your relatives, but you can choose your friends. cf. 1 Corinthians 15:33
- ▶ Proverbs 13:20, *"He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed."* NKJV (cf. Proverbs 1:7; 15:5); cf. Romans 13:13-14
- ▶ NOTE: "If you don't court a child of the devil, you won't have trouble with your father-in-law."

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Help With Temptation

▶ **"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41**

- Possible to be overtaken in sin, but NOT WITHOUT YOUR CHOICE. cf. Matthew 6:13; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Limit your opportunities.
- ▶ Watch and resist. 1 Peter 5:8; cf. James 4:7

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Help With Temptation

Ask the right questions.

- ▶ Does the Bible prohibit this activity? Galatians 5:19ff
- ▶ Would I want to be doing this when the Lord comes? 2 Peter 3:10
- ▶ Will this destroy my ability to think soberly? Romans 12:3; Titus 2:2ff
- ▶ Will this cause others to stumble? Matthew 18:6-7; 1 Corinthians 8
- ▶ Have my parents forbidden it? Proverbs 15:5, *"A fool despiseth his father's correction"*
- ▶ Does my conscience already question it? cf. Romans 14:23

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James 1:12, *"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which (the Lord) promised to them that love him."*

James 4:7, *"Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

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