

Dealing With Temptations

James 1:2-4

Temptations

All are subject to temptations. Luke 17:1

- ▶ No person is immune. 2 Timothy 3:12
- ▶ Manifold temptations. 1 Peter 1:6
- ▶ 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. Tit. 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:22

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
- ▶ *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 David. 2 Samuel 11:1-27
 - Consider Joseph. Genesis 39:7-13

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

Temptations

Rejoice in temptations. James 1:2, 12

- ▶ 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

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.

Help With Temptation

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

- ▶ NOTE: Statistics show that most who are converted are converted while young.
- ▶ Joseph. Genesis 39
- ▶ David. 1 Samuel 17
- ▶ Daniel. Daniel 1
- ▶ Jesus was 12, when he *"must be about his father's business."* Luke 2:42-49; cf. Luke 2:52
- ▶ NO TIME FOR WILD OATS. Galatians 6:7-8

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
- ▶ "Sow a thought & reap the deed; Sow a deed & reap a habit; sow a habit & reap the consequences." (author unknown)

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.
 - Satisfaction to the soul. cf. Hebrews 10:24-25

Help With Temptation

Watch the company you keep. Proverbs 1:10;
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)*
- ▶ NOTE: "If you don't court a child of the devil, you won't have trouble with your father-in-law."

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; cf. Matthew 6:13; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Watch and resist. 1 Peter 5:8; cf. James 4:7

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
- ▶ Does my conscience already question it? cf. Romans 14:23