

Temptations

Call To Worship: James 1:12-18

12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18** He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

Most people don't get serious about God until later in life. With everything going on in society, right now, we need to get serious about God earlier in life.

The core of this lesson is about one of life's strongest obstacles – temptation.

Lesson Scripture Reference I Corinthians 10:13

9 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Purpose of CAYA services: Remove obstacles that get in our way with having a closer relationship with God and to convict.

Being where Paul was when he write Chapter 7 (I Corinthians); All of us have been tempted by something, only to get to church, promise God to relieve us, only to get back on that same track, again.

Question: How did I get here, again? Where I drop the ball?

Answer: It's not an issue of sincerity or commitment. We get back in the same place with ONE temptation.

James I talks about temptation. Temptation ⇒ Sin ⇒ Death.

If we could press rewind on our life, we can identify were the temptation took place and what we'd do differently.

If we can learn to say NO in that moment, we can conquer temptation.

1st truth – **EVERYBODY** struggles with temptation.

Matthew 4, Luke 4:13 speak about temptations.

In Mark 1, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness; there isn't anything that keeps us from temptation.

In Luke 4:13, the devil left for a more opportune time. The devil has something that has our name on it!

- **Pardosemos** (*greek*) - proving our weaknesses.

Temptations come in so many different varieties (alcohol, friends, men, women, pornography, etc.).

- “Lead me not to temptation. I can find it all by myself”!
- Ever had a temptation that was so strong and you knew the outcome?

Temptation is the devil's way to tempt us outside of God's will.

- The devil interprets the desires of our heart (which are not designed by God) and draws us away from God.
- How does he do it? Three ways:
 - Always tempts us with flesh and desires
 - Ego and pride – to be perceived a certain way
 - Tempts us where our faith is weak
- The devil finds us where he knows we are weak in faith.
- In an area that is not covered is where we become the most vulnerable (the area where we don't pray about and where he'll tempt us the most).
- **LUST + LACK = SIN**
 - LUST – in heart
 - LACK – having without in life
 - SIN – where the devil will drag us to

The devil is a great hunter (I Peter 5:8); Traps are set with bait (seen) and hidden traps (unseen). The devil does not share in the shame, guilt, etc., that takes place after the “game”.

I Corinthians 10:13

1. God has set a limit on how much we can be tempted! Go into it knowing you can handle it! God won't stop it, but He will restrict it.
2. God has provided a way out.

Four biblically sound steps to take against temptation

1. Stop playing the blame game.

Take ownership and stop pointing fingers. We've had something to do with it.

- SIN – Self-Inflicted Nonsense.
- The devil can't make you do anything! Adam and Eve – kept passing the buck on why the sin was done. II Corinthians 5:9-10 – when we stand before God, we've got to own our failures.
- Excuses: give something/someone else control over a situation!
 - “Everyone is doing it” or “All in the family”. Um, that's not an excuse for sin. God gives us free will.

2. You've got to hide the word of God in your heart.

We don't have to walk around with a Bible, etc., but embrace the word of God. Psalm 119 – the more of God's word we have in us.

- The devil is always makes us “frustrated” when we read the Bible/word of God. How? The Bible does the following:
 - Exposes the truth of what we are dealing with. Our feelings are the most unreliable thing we have.
 - God says you won’t have dominion over something you won’t name (ex. Making love –vs- fornication).
 - Tells us our faith is greater than the temptation
 - Memorize ONE scripture a WEEK; the more you commit the word of God to your heart, the more you take energy to memorize it. Pick a verse that is relates to your weakness and put it to memory. Put it on flashcards, post-it notes, etc., where you can see it easily.

3. Avoid the danger zones.

- The best way to deal with temptation is to avoid it.
- We’ve all got that thin line in us that separates RIGHT from WRONG.
 - The devil convinces us that whatever isn’t wrong is permissible and as long as we are on the right side, we are okay.
 - We all play the game of “how close to sin can I get without sinning?”.
 - The devil says get as close to the line as you can, but don’t cross the line. Eventually, we get so close to the line that we end up crossing the line.
 - As a recovering alcoholic, why go to the bar?
 - If you are on a budget, why go to the mall to “look”?
 - If you are on a diet, why go to Dairy Queen?
- Greatest lie of the devil, “You can handle that” or “You are stronger than that”!
- Pray for a spirit of conviction; the Holy Spirit convicts!
- Know your weak zones

4. You need an accountability partner

- Accountability partner ⇐ usually not our best friend
 - best friend is usually someone that covers, but not challenges
 - Galatians 6:1-3
 - We need someone that we can be totally open and honest with about our weaknesses
 - Two Rules for the partner
 1. Someone you respect spiritually (has a passion who for and wants to do right by God)
 2. Someone of the same sex! Platonic friendships in our 20s and 30s are usually non-existent.
 - Read Proverbs 27:5-6
 - Accountability partner encourages us to be what God wants us to be.
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