

WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED

1Cor.10:13; Jas.1:12-15

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. When we are tempted – meaning when we are tempted to sin; to be tested maliciously for the purpose of leading us to commit sin in violation of God’s law; to transgress God’s law. Cf. 1Jno.3:4.
2. Temptation is the common experience of all responsible people, both male and female, whether young, middle-age, or old, 1Cor.10:13.
 - a. It is not a matter of “If we are tempted,” but when!
 - b. In other words, whether or not we like it, we are tempted.
3. Satan is the great tempter who uses deception as his chief weapon to deceive the whole world by means of “the lust of the flesh,” “the lust of the eyes,” and “the pride of life,” starting with mother Eve in the garden of Eden, and all men since that time, including Jesus of Nazareth, Gen.3:1-6; 2Cor.11:3; 1Tim.1:14; 1Cor.10:13; See Mt.4:1-10; Heb.2:14; 4:15; 1Jno.2:16; Rev.12:9.
4. Temptation to sin, or to be tested maliciously for the purpose of leading one to commit sin, does not end when one obeys the gospel and “stands born of God,” redeemed by the blood of Christ, 1Cor.10:12,13; Jas.1:12-14.
 - a. Briefly note what is taught in these passages.
 - b. Thus to be tempted is not to sin.
 - c. Sin results only when one yields to the temptation.
 - d. God has provided the way or the means and the power for us to escape yielding to temptation and sinning.
5. While all are tempted to sin, it need not result in sin. Therefore, we are never justified in offering the fact of temptation to sin as an excuse for our guilt of sin, Rom.1:18-20; 1Cor.10:13; Jas.1:12; 1Cor.15:34; 1Jno.2:1.
 - a. Even though all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, the sinner is without excuse for his sin, Rom.1:20.
6. Since we are going to be tempted; since it is possible to resist temptation; since we are held responsible for resisting temptation; since there is no excuse for the sin committed if and

when we yield to temptation; how do we resist temptation?
What is God's way of escaping yielding to it? Cf. 2Pet.2:9.

7. Note the ways: --

II. DISCUSSION

A. ONE WAY TO RESIST TEMPTATION IS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GOD SAYS THE DEVIL WHO IS THE GREAT TEMPTER CAN BE RESISTED.

1. The devil is not an evil "God".
 - a. He is not omniscient.
 - b. He is not omnipresent.
 - c. He is not omnipotent.
 - d. He is not eternal.
 - e. He is not a being possessing irresistible power.
2. The devil can be successfully resisted, Jas.4:7; Eph.4:7; 1Pet.5:8,9.
3. The devil's devices, designs, schemings, wiles, methods are not a secret; we need not be ignorant of them 2Cor.2:11; 11:13-15.
4. We are provided with "the whole armor of God" enabling us to resist the devil; to stand against his wiles, and quench all his fiery darts, Eph.6:10-19.

B. ANOTHER WAY TO RESIST TEMPTATION IS TO REMEMBER THAT WE ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD WITH THE ABILITY TO ACT IN HARMONY WITH GOD'S WILL.

1. According to Gen.1:26,27, properly interpreted, that likeness is in the inner man, not the physical man.
2. What does this imply?
 - a. Intellect – reason – the power to think.
 - b. Will – power of choice.
 - c. Morality – right and wrong.
 - d. Free-moral agency.
3. Our nature is not corrupt, inherently evil or sinful, Gen.1:26,27,31; Eccl.7:29; 1Cor.15:34; 1Jno.2:1.
4. God's will for us is not beyond our ability to perform.

- a. In the first place, we can understand it, Eph.3:1-4; 5:17; Jno.7:17; 8:32; Rom.6:17.
- b. In the second place, we can do God's will, Mt.7:21; Lk.6:46; Heb.5:8,9; 1Jno.2:3-6 ("ought"); 1Jno.5:3.
- c. The issue is, do we will it? Will we do it? Jno.7:17; Cf. Rom.1:21,28.

C. ANOTHER WAY TO RESIST TEMPTATION IS THE WAY OF BIBLE STUDY, LEARNING AND HIDING THE WORD IN OUR HEART TO AVOID SIN.

- 1. Psa.119:9-11; 17:4; 2Tim.2:15; 1Pet.2:2; 2Pet.3:16-18; 2Pet.1:2-11.
 - a. Diligent bible study, rightly dividing the word, eliminates ignorance, which the devil uses to deceive, Jno.8:32.
 - b. Bible study gains for us wisdom, Prov.1:1-4; Cf. Heb.5:12-14. See Col.1:9,10; 1Cor.2:4-13; Psa.19:7; 119:104,130; 98-100; 2Tim.3:14-17.
- 2. The way to resist temptation is to study, learn and make use of, be able to recall and apply at a moments notice, passages related to sins that often tempt us in our daily experience.
- 3. We have the advantage of being able to use the example of Jesus when he was tempted of the devil as recorded in Mt.4:1-10.
 - a. His response, which made use of the word, was consistent, successful, should be our response to temptation.
 - b. To each of the devil's three avenue's of temptation, his response was:
 - (1) "It is written," V.4.
 - (2) "It is written again," V.7.
 - (3) "...for it is written," V.10.
 - c. His example, both Peter and John tell us, is to be followed by us, 1Pet.2:20,21; 1Jno.2:6.

D. ANOTHER WAY TO RESIST TEMPTATION AND SIN IS THROUGH THE AVENUE OF PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

- 1. Again we look to Jesus as our example who prayed when tempted, Lk.6:11,12; Mt.26:36-46.

2. Moreover, Jesus, himself, teaches us to pray for deliverance from temptation, Mt.6:13; 26:41.
3. Cf. 2Pet.2:9; Jas.1:2-8; 1Jno.3:22; 5:14,15.
4. Watch and pray; make provision against temptation and sin in advance. Don't wait to start praying only after you have run up against and embraced temptation. Don't wait till the sin is staring you in the face to make preparation to overcome it!

E. ANOTHER SURE WAY TO RESIST TEMPTATION TO SIN, WHICH IS GOD'S WAY FOR US TO RESIST IT, IS THAT WE CONSTANTLY RE-EVALUATE OUR PATTERN OF LIFE AND EVER BE WATCHFUL.

1. Temptations often come and result in our yielding because we are not circumspect or cautious in our manner of life and our associations.
 - a. We often allow ourselves to be adversely influenced by the wrong people, failing to heed the Lord's warnings, Prov.1:10; 1Cor.15:33; Cf. Gen.39:7-12.
 - (1) Sometimes we simply have to break, cease and desist, certain friendships, associations and certain entertainments that give rise to temptation leading us to sin!
 - b. Sometimes we simply do not resist watching or thinking upon the wrong things in the wrong way. Cf. Job 31:1; Mt.5:27-30.
 - c. We fail because we often have our priorities out of order, Mt.6:33.
 - d. Or we fail because we are not where we ought to be. 2Sam.11:1,2.
 - e. Constantly being on guard is absolutely necessary. But it takes thought, effort, determination, and a strong faith.
2. Some Bible examples of watchfulness and of admonitions to practice it.
 - a. Joseph who fled, Gen.39:12.
 - b. Timothy who was told to flee, follow, and fight, 2Tim.2:22.
 - c. The Corinthians who were warned about and admonished to flee fornication in 1Cor.6:18, and to "come out from

- among them, and be ye separate,” in 2Cor.6:17, and to “perfect holiness in the fear of God,” in 2Cor.7:1.
- d. The Roman saints who were admonished to “make no provision for the flesh” in Rom.13:14. (lit. “to think before,” or to provide for).

III. CONCLUSION

1. Be ever mindful that temptation is the common experience of all of us.
 - a. But it need not result in sin and spiritual death for us.
 - b. We can fact it and resist it – the Lord says so!
2. How do we do it? We can do it God’s way, which is:
 - a. By remembering that the devil who is the great tempter can be resisted.
 - b. By remembering that we are created in the image of God with the ability to act in harmony with God’s will.
 - c. The way of diligent Bible study, rightly dividing the word of God, learning and hiding the word in our heart to avoid sin.
 - d. The way of the avenue of prayer for deliverance.
 - e. To constantly re-evaluate our pattern of life and ever be watchful, making sure we make no provision for the flesh.
3. According to 2Pet.2:9, “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations.”
 - a. The Lord’s way is sure. The Lord’s way will work for us.
 - b. Are we willing to learn what his way is and to work it once we learn what it is?
 - c. The Lord has done his part. The rest is up to us!