

# Temptation is Everywhere!

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Satan has a custom-designed temptation just for you! He exploits things that already have your attention and interest! It's a slippery slope with no end in sight if we give in and do not ask ourselves: *Why am I doing this?* Or, *Is this of any spiritual value?*

Technology today has *everyone* connected to something, *someone*, or some kind of information! Temptations have increased exponentially in recent times! Satan uses everything and anything at any time to tempt anyone who is not on guard!

Temptations are more *serious*; of greater *diversity*; and easier to yield to than ever! Satan is working overtime to *ruin* lives and to *destroy* souls for an eternity with *new* ways to bring about that *dreadful* result.

Satan can tempt us with unscriptural *thoughts* and then condemn us for *having* such thoughts. But being *tempted* does not mean we have *sinned*—not yet; anyway! If we are tempted with an unscriptural desire, it is at *that* point just a *temptation* and not a *sin*—unless we *yield* to the temptation!

No one is *exempted* from temptation, but everyone is *promised* the ability to *resist*—if we *ask* God for His help to resist.

NKJV 1 Corinthians 10:13 “*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*”

We often keep *looking* at what is tempting us—even after we have *prayed* to be delivered from such. If Eve had not kept looking at the fruit,

the temptation would *not* have become *so strong*, and the results would *not* have been *so disastrous*! We *know* our weak areas—but *so* does the devil.

The love for money has always been a temptation. AV 1 Timothy 6:9-10 “*They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*” “*All evil*”—not just some *kinds* of evil.

We are to get *away from* the tempting *situation*—otherwise we are, by *staring* at the *tempting* image, setting ourselves up for failure, and we are at risk to *yielding*.

That choice to *resist* or *resign* is always ours, but we *always have* the Holy Spirit to help us. Everyday we pray AV Matthew 6:13 “*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*”

The Christian life is a serious *struggle* against a dangerous *enemy*! The devil who is out to *destroy* us, *tempts* us in any way possible. Where you are *prone* to yield is where the devil takes advantage. AV Galatians 6:7 “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*”

*False grace* messages can jeopardize our eternal life. *Once Saved Always Saved* is a deadly delusion that has Billions of people letting down their spiritual guard against temptation and sin.

Satan presents an enticing religious message, and millions accept it—because it is easy to accept. Satan says you are always *saved* even if you yield to temptation.

Billions are misled to think they can never be *out* of God's grace no matter *what* sins they commit or *wrong* attitudes they retain. The truth is AV James 1:14 “*Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*”

If there is no true *repentance*; if there is no *for-saking* of that sin; and if there is no *returning* to faith in Christ, then the flames would be the result.

King David shows that we can *have* the Holy Spirit and be *in* God's will in our life, but later yield to temptation, commit adultery, and take ourselves *out* of God's will.

King David even plotted to have Uriah killed—so the King would have gone straight to the flames had he not *confessed* those sins and *repented* before God. It was his *choice*, as it is always *our* choice, to *return* to God and be *forgiven*—or to *rebel* and be *lost*—*forever*!

When we are *tempted* to do something wrong; or when we are tempted to keep a wrong attitude toward someone—that is being *tempted*. But we have *not* sinned, yet—and then only if we follow through with those unscriptural thoughts.

God's Word says, “*All have sinned*” Romans 3:23 AV, so *all* have to *deal* with sin—and it must be *dealt* with by a true repentance and actual returning to God. Sins do not have to be *continuous* to be *sin*—because telling *one* lie makes someone a liar; stealing *one* item defines a thief; killing *one* time is murder, and being greedy *one* time makes an idolater.

The warning is AV Revelation 21:8 “*The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers [immoral NKJV], and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*”

The apostle also warns AV Ephesians 5:5 no “*Covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*”

Eve was *tempted* and *yielded* because she stayed *near* the tempting fruit. And everyone after her has the same nature *she* had—prone to sin as

she did. Being *tempted* becomes sin after we *yield* to the temptation.

God knows the fate of anyone who sins—so He is ready to *forgive* when we are ready to *confess*—and *forsake* them. Repenting is *more* than being sorry—Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, felt sorry, and even returned the money—but he did *not* repent and did *not* ask Jesus to forgive him.

The *first* sin of denying the Savior led to more *serious* sins—Judas committed suicide and no doubt went to “*The fiery lake of burning sulfur*” Revelation 21:8 NIV as an unrepentant murderer. Wrong *choices* lead us to the wrong *destination*!

Jesus tells us to take serious *action* against serious *temptation*. NKJV Matthew 5:30 “*If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*”

We should get rid of anything, any interest, or any activity that is *causing* sinful thoughts—and there could be many.

Some causes are mindless Web surfing; cell phone scrolling; worldly entertainment; questionable books; alcohol consumption; unscriptural magazines; unbelieving friends; online gambling, or anything that is *causing* us to sin.

We must take *drastic* action to remove the *source* of unscriptural images—Jesus said NKJV Matthew 5:30 “*It is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*”

Anything that is *tempting* us should be removed *by* us! If a magazine tempts us with immoral thoughts, we should shred it; If Web-surfing tempts us to view immoral images, we should cancel the online service.

It is much better to be *rid* of them, than to *keep* them, and to keep sinning. It’s easy to *gain* the world and *forfeit* our soul—Matthew 16:26.

The devil has a custom-made *temptation* for the unwary. He knows where we are weak, and he knows how to *exploit* that temptation.

We have ample *warning* to take serious *action* against serious temptation. Jesus told us to confess; to repent; and to forsake sins. Everyone is *accountable* so everyone has to take *action* against what is causing the sin!

To face *temptation* is a *certainty*—but we can make right choices with the Holy Spirit’s help. Satan can present a temptation in a *second*—we *have* to resist in an *instant*.

We will have no excuse when we give account of our life before God because we have been warned. AV 1 Peter 5:8 “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,*” is like a lion, “*seeking whom he may devour.*”

Being tempted can happen quickly and come from many sources—cell phones; iPads; text messages; Facebook; Twitter; Instagram; Tik-Tok; television; books, magazines, email, and other forms of communication! A few taps can take us quickly into murky waters!

We can feel *angry* toward someone or something, but at that point we are just being tempted. It isn’t a *sin* until we give *in*—and follow with resentment or plotting a payback. We are, however, *not* obligated Romans 8:12-13 NIV “*to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*”

Old habits are tough to *break* and harder to *forsake*—but with God’s help, we *must* because AV Galatians 2:20 “*The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*”

No one can afford to forfeit their soul! No one can allow *anything* or *anyone* take them out of God’s will. Being with Jesus forever is the goal!

*Temptation* and *sin* are hard-wired to *desire* and *deception*. Satan first places a *desire* in our heart for something outside the will of God. He then has us *justify* getting what we *desire*—*I’m not harming anyone*, he has us think.

The desire then becomes so strong, we are *deceived* about the consequences. AV James 1:14-16 “*Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*” We have no excuse because we can choose differently.

If we do not *choose* correctly—we move *further* away from God. 15 “*Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.* 16 *Do not err [be not led astray YLT], my beloved brethren.*”

The battle is for the mind—we think we *need* something or *deserve* something. If the desire is unscriptural, the devil is ready to *deceive* us and *convince* us to try it.

If we lose the battle with *desire*, we are an easy prey to *deception*, which leads to *disobedience*—finally to sin and eternal fire.

When tempted with anything, we must ask for God’s help. The longer we delay, the more likely to yield. Eve hesitated and kept looking—and fell! Joseph did *not* hesitate, did *not* stare, and *ran out* of the house!

When we are tempted to *resent* a wrong; surf the Web; swipe a smart phone; or slander a person’s reputation, we are being *tempted*, but not *sinning*—not yet!

We are not *forced* to sin or give *in*—because we can have *power* to *resist* with-in—WEY 1 John 4:4 “*Greater is He [the Holy Spirit] who is in you than he who is in the world.*”



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