

# MEETING TEMPTATIONS

†††

S51A 0529 22P

God uses the temptations that we meet to perfect our knowledge of Him and to bring us to the place of perfect happiness here and a real preparation for eternal life.

It requires a full surrender to the will and Word of God to be a real Christian, one that is in a position to be tempted on all points. One who will face any kind of trouble that Satan makes for them and consider it as a temptation.

It is of the greatest blessing to be in the real Truth of God and to know that the troubles we go through are only temptations. It is by these troubles that we grow and develop and will be used by God as steppingstones to everything we need and desire here, and for a real preparation for Eternal Life.

As God enlightens us by His Holy Spirit, we will see how valuable the temptations are in this life and how they bring us to the place where we are on scriptural grounds in everything.

As the result of going through each temptation, according to God's will and Word, we will be perfected in trusting in Him alone for everything. And then, receive our full inheritance in Christ of happiness here and Eternal happiness hereafter.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (KJV) tells us, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*" That means the devil is always going about, under cover, like a thief in the night, always trying to rob somebody.

But as soon as the devil is discovered, he will flee. Because Satan will never work in the open, always working under cover.

(Verse 9), "*Whom resist steadfast in the faith,*" The devil's object is, to get us to do something unscriptural by trusting in some effort of our own, or in some thing or some body besides God. And we cannot yield to that temptation.

(Verse 9 continues) "*Knowing that the same afflictions,*" or temptations; *are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world*". The same evils of every kind are being experienced by every true child of God in the world.

(Verse 10) "*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,* (That means that He is calling us to share in all the riches of Heaven throughout Eternity.) *after that ye have suffered a while,* (or after you have been tempted in various ways and met it right) *will make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever*"

That means to perfect us in everything that concerns us, in this life, and it also includes a real preparation for Eternal Life.

Through this we can easily see how important temptations really are. Because, no matter where we may be, we can be taught and trained by God, through every trial and temptation.

Then God inspired the writer to the Hebrews to tell us in Hebrews 12:11, "*Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*"

That means, through any kind of trouble, or any kind of trial, whether the devil tries to rob you by the thoughts he puts in your mind, attacks in the body, attacks in our family, financial matters, or through what somebody may say or do to us, they are all temptations directly from Satan himself.

Then James tells us in James 1:12, "*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*"

Some Church people who have not the Spirit of God teaching and training them, think that what that means is, when someone has all kinds of trouble in this life and then dies of a serious disease, they will receive the 'crown of life'. That does not mean that at all.

When a person goes through all kind of trouble in this life, the Lord, out of His great love and mercy, allows this to happen to alert them that there is a change needed, as Ephesians 5:14 tells us, "*Awake thou that sleepest*". Repent and be saved.

What it does mean is, Happy, very happy, is the man that goes through his trials successfully, and meets every temptation in his life in a right way. For when he has been tested on all points and has stood every test, then he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord will give to all who love Him.

It doesn't mean that if we make mistakes or have failures, we are done for. Not at all. But it does mean that we will have to go back and make it right, before we can make further progress. We cannot cover it up, and let it go, thinking it will go away. We need to make a real surrender at that point and the sooner we do it, the better. We have no time to waste, He is at the very door, being so loving and patient with us.

Our temptations test us on the Word of God. Are we going to meet this trial as the Scriptures tell us, or do it as Satan is trying to persuade us to do? Are we going to trust God alone or go back to self-help, or some other plan of man?

We were all born with that 'trust in ourselves', or in some other plan of man, instead of trust in God. It sometimes takes a very hard trial, or a serious temptation to get the last bit of self, exposed, and then to get rid of it entirely. That is why some of the people in the Bible had to go through such terrible trials in their life.

It was all for their benefit, that they might become fully scriptural, to have their trust wholly on God alone, instead of themselves or some other human plan.

That is the only easy and happy place in the entire world. Jesus said, "*if we go to Him when we labor and are heavy laden, He will give us rest.*" (Matt. 11:28)

In Hebrews 4:9, we have the same thought, "*There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*" That means, a rest spiritually, a rest from self-efforts, and from self-merit. Just as God did from His works on the seventh day.

(Verse 11) "*Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest.*" Not to do more or try more by self-effort or self-merit. "*Lest anyone fails through unbelief.*" Like the Children of Israel who failed through unbelief and had to wander in the desert for forty years.

Satan likes to tell people that the cause of all their trouble and sorrow is because they are a tough case, because they have done some bad things in their life.

Therefore, God is upset with them and isn't working for them like He does for other people.

We all know how subtle the devil can be, and he can make that seem so real. Some people will swallow that up and become downcast and worried through their many trials and temptations.

The Lord told Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "*My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*" Paul took God at His Word and said, "*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*" Paul said that he was going to glory in his infirmities and not worry, and if we give God any chance at all, He will enable us to be conquerors over the devil, and really grow and develop spiritually.

The late Pastor said that he compares the Christian life to a kite. The harder the wind blows against that kite, the higher the kite flies. So, the greater the opposition of the devil, the faster and more solid the Christian will develop.

The late Pastor also told a story of his early Christian life, when learning how to meet the discouraging dark pictures, and the doubts and fears that Satan would put into his mind.

Satan would make these thoughts so real that it would be a complete disturbance of his peace. He said that he was so perplexed and discouraged and could not understand why he had to be buffeted so much.

After a while, there would come a few days of great peace and a realization of God's presence, and then the hope that that was the end of Satan's buffetings. I would try my best not to make a mistake, not to do a thing that would allow that peace to go. But the more I tried, the quicker it went, (fortunately for me)

I had a book with a chapter in it titled, "The Assurance of Faith." Whenever I would get in those battles with the devil, I would read that chapter, and the devil would flee. I would then have some peace for a while, but not for long.

Soon the devil would be back as strong as ever, so I cherished that book, especially that chapter. When I went on a trip to hold meetings, I would always put that book in my bag, in case I got into a bad spiritual jam while I was away.

All this while, I did not realize that I was depending on that book instead of God. But we all have a long way to go to get to the end of everything human we are depending on. I should have been depending on God and God alone from the very beginning and did not know that I was not in any position to do it.

It was several months before I got my deliverance from reading this chapter. One day I was in about as bad a jam as I was ever in. I ran and got my book and started to read that chapter on "The Assurance of Faith". But the more I read, the worse it got.

As a result, I became more confused, more discouraged and upset than ever before. I thought, now what will I do? My last hope is gone.

But God was working and in a few days, He brought another passage to my mind from the book. It says there, "that we profess to be a child of God."

That made me stop and think. Now how does a little child act? They go to their parent for everything they need and desire. That is the attitude that we are to take of going to God personally and directly with our problems, our trials, and every need and desire.

That is why Jesus said, "Except ye be converted and become as a little child, we will in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

So, I went to God in prayer, laid the matter before Him—and— somewhat to my surprise, I got a deliverance that was better than I had ever gotten from any book, and I never had to look in that book again for any help or deliverance. From then on, I have always gone to God direct, and received my help.

That was an extremely valuable lesson to learn, because dealing personally with God is absolutely necessary for our proper growth and development spiritually. And, until we come to the place where we deal directly with God, personally and alone, about everything, as His Word teaches, we will never develop spiritually. Neither will our Christian characters be perfected for our preparation for eternal Life.

Only God can lead us down and out of that condition, and the buffetings of the devil are His greatest instruments in getting us to the end of all self-efforts and self-merit.

Through God's great skill as a teacher and His ability as a Workman on Christian lives, we will come to

the place where we will have enough and will be willing to stop all our self-efforts, cease from all our worries and anxieties, and be still, and— let God work fully in our spiritual lives.

That is the reason why it is so necessary to hold steady, get to the end of our dependence on ourselves for merit, and for the power to live right.

That was Job's trouble, he was filled with his self-merit and self-efforts and was not willing to give them up.

In Jehoshaphat's prayer, made in the valley of Berachah, written in the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm, the whole story is told—and—great instructions for us, "*Be still and know that I am God*" That is telling us that when we come to the end of our self-efforts and self-merit, cease from our own works, we will find out what a loving, kind, and patient God we have, One who is waiting to do great things for us.

God will then be able to reveal Himself to us, in all His love, mercy, and power. That will be worth everything that we have ever gone through. Our every trial and temptation in this life is so important in our preparation for our Eternal Life.

---

*The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia*



[www.fcgchurch.org](http://www.fcgchurch.org)

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

[info@fcgchurch.org](mailto:info@fcgchurch.org)

S51A 0529 22