

## Getting A Grip on Temptation

Temptation: A good definition is: the desire to have or do something that you should avoid.  
(To Be Tested Thoroughly)

The Bible tells us when we are drawn or taken away from our own lust or our old ways we will be tempted. Our adversary Satan, the devil known as the tempter, does not one bit like it when we become followers of Jesus Christ, as scripture says, we must be born again (John 3:3), but this does not exempt us from being tempted. But Satan cannot stand it when one's soul leaves his authority and becomes possession of Jesus Christ,

When a soul leaves darkness and comes to light that Jesus provided (John 1:4), he sends attacks on them, but I have good news, Jesus provided a way for you to get away from Satan, and Jesus will provide a victory for you if you hold on to Him, amen. We need to realize that when we are born again, that this does not exempt us from temptation or trials that come at us in our walk in this life, in this earth, but we have victory if we have been born again, because of Jesus Christ.

Let us take a look at why we have this victory. First of all Jesus is not just anybody, he is the Messiah, the savior, God who has become man in the flesh (John 1:14), amen. Jesus was a person or being just like you and I, walked, talked and breathed air like us.

Therefore He was tempted just as we are. Jesus went thru all this stuff, I call it so He would know just what we go thru and feel the same pain and experience the same difficulties we go thru, He's been there, yea every temptation we experience, He (Jesus) knows what you are going thru right now, and wants' to help you. First

of all let us look in the gospel of Matthew 3:16-17 - 16) And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**Look at this scripture, Jesus just being baptized and everyone around Him, John one of them, who just had the honors of doing the baptizing of the King of Kings, possibly heard this and witnessing not only the baptizing but as it says in verse 17) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Folks I tell you I believe God were and are very proud of His son, just as he is proud of us and loves us the same, but we are as Jesus, going to be tempted. But it's getting better, let us look on in the gospel of Matthew 4: 1-10 -**

<sup>1</sup>Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. <sup>2</sup>And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward a hungered. <sup>3</sup>And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. <sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God. <sup>5</sup>Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; <sup>9</sup>And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup>Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

This hits right at home, so familiar with us today, we can come home from a powerful worship service or even a powerful prayer meeting in our on closet at home and boom the tempter shows up. I want to emphasize something, that it is not sin to be tempted, but what we do with temptation that becomes sin. I want us to look at the way Jesus handled temptation, and maybe this will cause us to handle the next battle a bit more like Him.

1<sup>st</sup> temptation – says the tempter came to Him and said if thou be the Son of God, command these stones be made bread, we are tempted the same way, Satan is simply saying if you have any power use it, show me your miracles at my command, Satan will take scripture and try turn it around, misquote against us, Jesus said to him, It is written – meaning God says or my Father says this (Deuteronomy 8:3 - that He might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord does man live). You need to look this scripture up and be prepared to use it like it is meant for you as Jesus has done. Satan will try us in every way he possibly can. He will tell you that there is no such way you have any power unless you go his way, but the devil is a liar and the truth is not in him. Note: That here Jesus had the Word “hidden in His heart” Psalm 119:11 – says, Your word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Jesus was able to quote scripture and apply it at the right time. He told Satan, as it is written. This is the same for us today in our battle, because it is written, Amen.

2<sup>nd</sup> Temptation – Satan actually dares him to jump off the mountain and tells him to prove himself and Satan actually misquotes Psalm 91:11-12-For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee. Satan was saying if you really believe you are in God's care, then throw yourself off the mountain and let the angels catch you. But Satan left part of the scripture out and it was in all thy ways. See this did not get it with Jesus because He does not add to or take away from the word of God, amen. So Jesus answered Satan back and says again, As it is written, Thou shalt not

tempt the Lord thy God. We find this in Deuteronomy 6: 16 – You shall not tempt the Lord your God, as you tempted Him in Massah. See Satan again said to Jesus prove yourself by demonstrating the power God give you at my command, it did not work. You see God keeps his promises when we keep His ways. Jesus said we should live by every word that God utters, but Satan add to the Bible or takes from it. Satan can twist the word and give people Biblical reasons to support their foolish actions and ways of living. Beware of taking promises out of their context, or claiming promises when you have not met the conditions. To do something without the Bible's authority is to sin "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin – Romans 14:23. We do not want to do this by all means, Amen

3<sup>rd</sup> Temptation – we see in this 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation Satan brings forth, and was offering Jesus all he Had to offer, he was offering Jesus the easy way to Become King, Satan being the Prince of the World Scripture says in John 14:30, he thought being this Prince he could pull this trickery off, we do know That Satan is permitted by God to have certain Amount of control, Psalm 2: 6-9 – 6) Yet have I set

My King upon My holy hill of Zion. 7) I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to me, You Are My Son: this day have I begotten You. 8) Ask Of Me, and I shall give You the heathen for Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. 9) You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

See God has already promised these Kingdom's to Christ, it says in verse 7) You are My Son – Jesus was aware that he would have to die on the cross to gain this

kingdom. Satan was trying to tempt Jesus away from the cross. Satan was offering Him his whole world. Satan was saying here are my power and all my influence you need to become great among men that you want to have. Jesus answers Satan again, and says, Get thee hence, Satan for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve, this comes from Deuteronomy 6:13 – which says, Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve Him, and shalt swear by his name.

Scripture then says the devil left Him and behold angels came and ministered unto Him. Jesus was able to withstand the temptation so you and I can today. The devil could not stop Jesus from going to the cross so we could have victory today, I encourage you today to read your Bible, and hide His word in your heart so you can use it when temptation comes your way, because it is written,

John 19:17 – And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

John 19:30 – When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.

Revelation 1:18 – Jesus saying, I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

We see here that we have victory over temptation, we do not have to just sit back and let the devil enjoy punish us. We need to make a stand today, read the word and let's be like Jesus and tell the old devil, as it is written, for this is the only way of defense we have is what God give us, John 1:1 – says, In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. That's what I want to stand on. How 'bout you?

Joshua 24:15 – but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Remember Jesus loves you, and if God be for you, then who can be against you?

Be blessed in Jesus name, Bro. Mike Nappier