



When You Are Tempted

Each of us _____ temptation every day. Will Jesus really _____ us overcome our sins? The Lord God _____ each of us, and He knows all about us, and He knows all about _____. He knows the good and the bad. His Word was given to _____ us. Proverbs 2:6-8 says, “For the LORD gives wisdom; from his _____ come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; and he’s a _____ to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.” We do well to _____ to God’s wisdom.

From the moment that we’re old enough to understand right from wrong and good from evil, we face the temptation to please our _____ and sin rather than please God. Temptations come in many _____. Some are tempted to tell a lie, some to steal, some to sexual sin, some to take revenge, and some to gossip. When we’re afraid or hurting, we may be tempted to get angry and strike back at someone. When we’re selfish, greedy, or jealous, we may be tempted to take what is not ours or to put down other people.

Paul spoke of the _____ that he had faced with wanting to do good but giving in to sin. Paul said, “For what I’m doing, I do not understand; for I’m not practicing what I would like to do, but I’m doing the very thing I _____. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but _____ which dwells in me” (Romans 7:15-17). That problem faces us all, but the answer to temptation and sin is found in Christ.

Our reading today comes from 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. In this passage Paul mentions his determined attitude toward doing his best to serve the Lord.

First John 2:15-17 describes the three kinds of appeals that Satan uses to _____ us toward the world and away from God. “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the _____, the lust of the _____, and the _____ of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is _____ away, and the lust of it; but he who does the _____ of God abides forever.” Every temptation known to man comes in one of these three _____ or in a combination of them. The devil is very cunning and uses our desires to _____ us astray from God.

James 1:13-15 reveals to us how temptation _____ to us and what it will do to us. “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God _____ be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he’s _____ away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it’s full-grown, brings forth death.”

Satan used these appeals to the flesh, the eyes, and the pride of life when he tempted Eve to _____ of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 3 tells the story of how Satan led Eve to _____ God, to believe a lie, and to desire eating the fruit. Genesis 3:1-5 says: “Now the _____ was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God _____ said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman

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said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you _____.’ Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will _____ surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you’ll be _____ God, knowing good and evil.’”

The devil first tries to get us to _____ God’s Word and to make us think that God is trying to withhold some _____ from them. Once Satan gets people to be self-centered rather than believing God, he tells them what they _____ to hear, lies that contradict God.

Jesus told some Jews who wouldn’t _____ to Him what the devil is really like. The Lord Jesus said, “You are of your father the devil, and the _____ of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the _____, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a _____, he speaks from his own resources (or from his own heart), for he’s a liar and the father of it. But because I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me” (John 8:44-45).

The devil wants people to trust in their _____ judgment rather than listen to God. Of course, people who rely solely on their own judgment will _____ to their feelings and desires. When the devil tempted Jesus, he first tried to take advantage of his _____. Matthew 4:1-4 says: “Then Jesus was _____ up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had _____ forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become _____.’ But He (Jesus) answered him and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every _____ that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Jesus was able to _____ the devil because He knew the Father and He also knew the Scriptures. Jesus knew what mattered! God helps us overcome temptation by making us His _____ in Christ. We belong not to ourselves but to Jesus Christ, who died for us on the cross. God also helps us by giving us His Word to _____ us how to live and how to avoid sin. The more we _____ on God’s teaching, the more we can _____ temptation and sin.

Solomon advised his son, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and _____ not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall _____ your paths. Do not be _____ in your own eyes; fear the LORD and _____ from evil” (Proverbs 3:5-7). The Word of God can give you _____ and help you through the struggles that you face with the devil and with the world. The Word is a great _____ in times of trouble. The psalmist said, “Your word I have _____ in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

Sometimes the devil appeals to the _____ desires inside of us to get us to do things that are wrong. Jesus warned the people in the Sermon on the Mount to be careful what they _____ at. The Lord Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to _____ for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out 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” (Matthew 5:27-29).

Our society unfortunately glamorizes _____. Our _____ emphasizes and glamorizes sexy talk, and dress, and behavior. The _____ for sex has led many young men and women into sin and away from God. The consequences of sin are always greater than people think. Sexual immorality can _____ to unwanted pregnancy or disease, which can _____ a great loss of respect. People who

get involved in sexual activities outside of marriage often feel great _____ for what they've done; they wish they had never violated God's will.

Christians must _____ what they see. They must learn to look away from the things that may attract them sexually, so that they may remain _____ in their thoughts. Young men who love the Lord learn to _____ their eyes and not keep looking at things that tempt them. Young women need to be _____ how they dress, so that they won't tempt young men or send the wrong message. A young woman who dresses in a sexually provocative way says to the boys that she's _____ to be sexy.

First Timothy 2:9 says Christian women, "should _____ themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control." When young people, male or female, dress modestly they _____ many embarrassing situations and temptations. The devil loves to appeal to the eye; and this explains why Christians should pay attention to how they appear to others. Our clothing and our appearance do reveal our _____.

The apostle Paul lived for a time in Corinth in the first century, a place where the culture was _____ with sexual immorality. He gave them this instruction, "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is _____ the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his _____ body. Or do you not know that your body is a _____ of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your _____, for you were bought with a _____. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

We need to know that God is _____. He sees and knows what we are _____. The father of a small boy would occasionally _____ into a neighbor's orchard and pluck some of the choicest fruit. He always made _____, however, that "the coast was clear." One day with his son tagging along, after carefully _____ in every direction and seeing no one, he crept through the fence. He was just about ready to help himself when the youngster startled him by crying out, "Dad! Dad! You didn't look UP! You forgot to see if _____ is watching." When temptation comes upon you and you're inclined to yield because no one else seems to be around, _____, God is always watching. Proverbs 15:3 says, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping _____ on the evil and the good."

Learning to _____ in times of temptation is a great strategy for avoiding sin. Those who _____ around sin usually get caught up in it. Paul warns us, "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts _____ habits (or good morals)" (1 Corinthians 15:33). What you watch, what you listen to, what you associate with can _____ your thinking as a Christian. Stay away from the things that _____ your devotion to God. Paul told the young man Timothy, "Flee also youthful _____; but pursue (there's some things you need to grab a hold of, pursue) righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a _____ heart" (2 Timothy 2:22).

Whether the devil appeals to the eye, to the flesh, or to pride, he's really appealing to your _____. People seek what they _____, and their desires can lead them away from God. Luke 4 tells us a little more about _____ the devil tempted Jesus: "Then the devil, taking Him up to a high mountain, showed Him all the _____ of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will _____ before me, all will be Yours.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve'" (Luke 4:5-8).

Jesus knew whom He should worship and serve, and it wasn't the devil! In spite of all the treasures and power He might have received in ruling the world, Jesus would still have been a _____ to Satan if he had given in to the temptation. Jesus knew there was only One person to worship and serve, and that's the _____ in heaven.

Jesus knew people's carnal desires _____ them to something other than what they expected. Sin has a high, high _____: "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Ananias and Sapphira decided they _____ some of the money that they promised to God. Their _____ for money led them to keep back some of the money, and pretend to give it all, and they lied to God about it. They never expected that their lie to God would cost their lives (read Acts 5:1-10). Judas betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver, but it filled him with guilt and regret. Judas went away and hanged himself (Matthew 27:3-5).

We must never assume that sin is no big deal. Apparently, sin was a big enough deal for Jesus to bear the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. We can't love the world and love the Lord at the same time. James 4:4 simply says, "Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." When you sin, you sin against God; when you resist sin, you tell God that you love Him.

When you're in difficulty, hard temptations, remember to watch and _____. The Lord Jesus warned Peter, James, and John at the Garden of Gethsemane, "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is _____, but the flesh is _____" (Matthew 26:41). Prayer can help you _____ the spiritual strength you need to resist temptation. God is on your side, and He wants to help you.

First Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is _____, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of _____, that you may be able to bear it." One thing we can be sure about. If the temptation is too _____ for us, God will make us a way of escape. When you feel the temptation is too strong for you, start _____ for a way out of the situation.

The Lord invites us to _____ upon Him for the help that we need. Some people _____ away from God when they are tempted. Jesus calls us to come to Him confidently. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in _____ things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the _____ of grace, so that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." The Lord wants to _____ you overcome your temptations.

God wants you to be saved and to live with Him in heaven eternally; Satan and sin are your enemies. To find God's help, you must come to Christ and follow Him. To become a Christian, believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and your Lord. Turn from sin, confess your faith in Christ, and be baptized into Christ. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of your sins. The Lord can free you from the sin with His blood, when you're baptized (Romans 6:3-7). Won't you be baptized and follow Christ today?