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
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?