

The Battle of Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

INTRODUCTION

What are temptations?

1. They are not sin but lead to sin if yielded to.
2. Temptations are the halfway house between personal desire and personal rebellion.
3. They are not to be played with or enticed.
4. Temptations often reveal how we want to set up our own Kingdom if we got to be in charge.
5. They allow us to see our weaknesses for what they are, and the areas in which we are the most weak.
6. Temptations are only a tool of the enemy, but we have a choice whether to use them.
7. They can be overcome, but only through God's authority of truth.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall. No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.

I. Be Careful Not To Trip Yourself into Temptation

Proverbs 16:18-20

Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.

Better to be lowly of spirit with the humble than to divide plunder with the proud.

The one who understands a matter finds success, and the one who trusts in the LORD will be happy.

William Thrasher

Temptations are an appeal to meet righteous needs in an unrighteous way.

Charles R. Swindoll

I'm here today to warn you: I want you to watch out for the adversary. Guard yourself from any spirit of entitlement. Restrain any and all subtle temptation to gain attention or to find ways to promote yourself.

II. Be Warned of the Power of Temptation

C.S. Lewis

We must learn by experience to avoid either trains of thought or social situations which for us (not necessarily for everyone) lead to temptations. Like motoring-don't wait till the last moment before you put on the brakes but put them on, gently and quietly, while the danger is still a good way off.

Alexander Maclaren

The temptation once yielded to gains power. The crack in the embankment which lets a drop or two ooze through is soon a hole which lets out a flood.

John Owen

Temptations and occasions put nothing into a man, but only draw out what was in him before.

A.B. Simpson

One of the best results of temptation is that it shows us what is in our hearts.

James 1:13-15

No one undergoing a trial should say, "I am being tempted by God." For God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself doesn't tempt anyone. But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

Matthew 15:19

For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, blasphemies.

A.B. Simpson

One of the best results of temptation is that it shows us what is in our hearts.

Billy Sunday

Temptation is the devil looking through the keyhole. Yielding is opening the door and inviting him in.

IV. Be Sure God is Faithful in our Temptations

Matthew 4:4,7,10

"It is written..."

George Muller

It is a common temptation of Satan to make us give up the reading of the Word and prayer when our enjoyment is gone; as if it were of no use to read the Scriptures when we do not enjoy them, and as if it were no use to pray when we have no spirit of prayer.

John Owen

To believe that He will preserve us is, indeed, a means of preservation. God will certainly preserve us, and make a way of escape for us out of the temptation, should we fall. We are to pray for what God has already promised. Our requests are to be regulated by His promises and commands. Faith embraces the promises and so finds relief.

George Whitefield

The riches of His free grace cause me daily to triumph over all the temptations of the wicked one, who is very vigilant, and seeks all occasions to disturb me.

CONCLUSION:**C.S. Lewis**

“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness — they have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means — the only complete realist.”

Rick Warren

Every time you defeat a temptation, you become more like Jesus!