

MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS

1 Peter 1:6

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS**:

Peter reminds us that, at least for a *season*, we may have to endure manifold *temptations*.

WHAT ARE TEMPTATIONS?

The word that is translated “temptations” may refer to **any *external* hardship or trouble intended to prove or test someone’s faith**. This word can ALSO be used to refer to **any *internal* impulse or enticement to sin**.

James 1:12–14

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. 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be TEMPTED WITH EVIL, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is DRAWN AWAY OF HIS OWN LUST, AND ENTICED.

So, there are temptations that come from *without* and temptations that come from *within*. The temptations that come from without are from the Lord. The temptations that come from within (to entice us to sin) come from our own lusts (with help from the devil). Now, there’s no sin in being tempted externally OR internally.

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED like as we are, YET WITHOUT SIN.

The sin is not the temptation. The sin is yielding to sin (our lusts) when we are tempted.

ARE ALL TEMPTATIONS THE SAME?

1 Peter 1:6 (KJV 1900)

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **MANIFOLD temptations**:

The phrase “manifold” temptations means that there are *different kinds* of temptations. Even though there are different kinds of temptations, *none* are out of the ordinary!

1 Corinthians 10:13

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*.

Every temptation that we experience is COMMON to all men. Meaning, we will never be tempted with something out of the ordinary. Also, we will never be tempted above what we’re able to endure (i.e. fight in a higher division or weight class). Lastly, with every temptation God provides “a way of escape.” (In other words, there’s a specific way God intends for us to endure each temptation.)

How can we know what God’s will is on any particular issue?

- a. Sometimes God directs us **BY HIS WORD.**

Psalm 119:105 (KJV 1900)

105 Thy word *is* a LAMP UNTO MY FEET, And a LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.

As a “lamp unto our feet” the word shows us where we *are*. As a “light unto our path” the word show us where we’re *going*!

- b. Sometimes God directs us **BY HIS SPIRIT.**

Sometimes the Spirit will give us direction at the very moment we need it.

Matthew 10:19–20

19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU IN THAT SAME HOUR what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, BUT THE SPIRIT of your Father which speaketh in you.

At other times, He will show us what to do in advance.

John 16:13

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and HE WIL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME.

The phrase “shew you things to come” means to declare or reveal something to come. The Spirit often does this through dreams or prophetic speech.

c. Finally, He directs us **WITH HIS PEACE**.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵ And let the PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS...

The word “rule” means **to be the factor that determines outcomes**. This word can be translated “arbitrator” or as “umpire”. Umpires determine outcomes based on two (2) possibilities (balls or strikes). The peace of God works in the same way. It can determine a direction, but the number of possibilities cannot be more than two.

In addition, this method of direction only works if...

- This “peace” is received by everyone involved.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, TO THE WHICH ALSO YE ARE CALLED INTO ONE BODY;

In other words, since the purpose of this peace is to unify the body, any peace God uses with this method will be a *corporate peace*, and not an *individual peace*.

- Everyone is willing to accept the answer that God (peace) gives.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵ And LET the peace of God RULE in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and BE YE THANKFUL.

First, everyone must “let” or ALLOW this peace to arbitrate or decide the outcome. Once He decides, let everyone be “thankful” or ACCEPT what He (peace) says.

One final word on receiving direction. **DON'T ASK GOD FOR DIRECTION IF YOU DON'T PLAN TO FOLLOW IT.**

Ezekiel 14:3

³ Son of man, these men have SET UP THEIR IDOLS IN THEIR HEART, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: SHOULD I BE ENQUIRED OF AT ALL BY THEM?

The people were merely “going through the motions”. Meaning, outwardly they were seeking God. However, inwardly they were determined to follow their idols. (An *idol* is something that is more important to you than God.) Moreover, anyone seeking God with their mind *already* made up will be deceived!

Ezekiel 14:4

4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I THE LORD WILL ANSWER HIM THAT COMETH ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE OF HIS IDOLS;

In other words, don't expect God to validate something you have already decided in our own mind. Instead, it's best to repent (change your mind) of any decisions or ideas BEFORE asking God for direction!

Ezekiel 14:6

6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; REPENT, and TURN YOURSELVES FROM YOUR IDOLS; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

ARE ALL TEMPTATIONS NECESSARY?

1 Timothy 6:9 (KJV 1900)

9 But they that will be rich FALL INTO TEMPTATION AND A SNARE, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Apparently, there are some temptations that can be *avoided*. We can avoid them by being *watchful* and *prayerful*.

Matthew 26:41

41 WATCH AND PRAY, THAT YE ENTER NOT INTO TEMPTATION: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

If we're watchful (attentive, obedient) and prayerful, we will avoid unnecessary temptations.

1 Peter 1:6 (KJV 1900)

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, IF NEED BE, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

The phrase “if need be” means “if necessary.” In other words, there are some temptations that CANNOT be avoided!

Luke 22:31–32

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may SIFT YOU AS WHEAT:

³² But I HAVE PRAYED FOR THEE, THAT THY FAITH FAIL NOT: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Apparently, Peter was about to encounter a test that even Jesus could not save him from. However, Jesus did pray that Peter would go through his test successfully!