

# MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS – Part 2

## 1 Peter 1:6

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

We've been speaking to you on the subject of "temptations." We've asked the question, "What are they? Are they all the same? Are they all necessary?" Tonight, I want to cover two more questions...

## WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

What is the purpose of temptations and trials? Again, sometimes we feel like the things we endure in life have no real purpose point.

## 1 Peter 1:6–7 (KJV 1900)

**<sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: <sup>7</sup> THAT THE TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH, BEING MUCH MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

## 1 Peter 1:6–7 (Good News Bible)

**<sup>6</sup> Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. <sup>7</sup> THEIR PURPOSE IS TO PROVE THAT YOUR FAITH IS GENUINE. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honour on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

This is the purpose of trials and tests—they prove the genuineness of our faith. Not only that, but trials and tests help to refine our faith! (Just like gold is refined by fire, our faith is refined by trials.) Lastly, depending on how refined or precious our faith turns out to be in the end, we can be rewarded for it!

## 1 Peter 1:9

**<sup>9</sup> Receiving the END of your FAITH, even the SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.**

Once we understand the purpose of our trials, we will stop complaining about them and begin to rejoice!

### **James 1:2–3**

**<sup>2</sup> My brethren, COUNT IT ALL JOY when you fall into diverse temptations; <sup>3</sup> KNOWING THIS, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

Now, we should probably add that temptations and trials ALSO come because of the word.

### **Matthew 13:21 (KJV 1900)**

**<sup>21</sup> Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when TRIBULATION OR PERSECUTION ARISETH BECAUSE OF THE WORD, by and by he is offended.**

Although the word “temptation” is not used here in Matthew, it is used in Luke.

### **Luke 8:13**

**<sup>13</sup> They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of TEMPTATION fall away.**

This tells us that the words “tribulation” and “persecution” represent the different kinds of temptations. Moreover, the devil brings these temptations in order to keep the word from producing in our heart. In fact, the word “persecute” means to organize a program to destroy a religion by forcing adherents to renounce their faith, or killing them if they don’t.

## **HOW DO WE OVERCOME WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED?**

### **Revelation 12:11 (KJV 1900)**

**<sup>11</sup> And THEY OVERCOME him by the BLOOD OF THE LAMB, and by the WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY; and they LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO DEATH.**

The Bible lists three (3) important things you must do in order to overcome in any trial:

#### **1. First, “WE OVERCOME BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.”**

To say that we overcome “by the blood of the lamb” is to say that we overcome by trusting in cross.

### **Exodus 15:23–26 (KJV 1900)**

**<sup>23</sup> And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. <sup>24</sup> And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? <sup>25</sup> And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him A TREE, *which***

when he had cast into the waters, the **WATERS WERE MADE SWEET**: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he **PROVED** them, <sup>26</sup> And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE**.

God was “proving” (testing) the Israelites to see if they would trust in His remedy for salvation. The remedy God used to deliver them pointed to forward to the cross!

**2. Second, “WE OVERCOME BY THE WORD OF OUR TESTIMONY.”**

Unless we hold fast to our testimony, we will not be able to overcome in our tests/trial. In fact, our confession (or testimony) is what keeps our faith (hope) from wavering.

**Hebrews 10:23**

<sup>23</sup> Let us **HOLD FAST THE PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH** without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

**Hebrews 10:23 (ASV)**

<sup>23</sup> let us **HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION** of our hope **THAT IT WAVER NOT**; for he is faithful that promised:

As long as we hold fast to our confession, God is faithful to keep His promise (save us)!

**Hebrews 4:14, 16**

<sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **LET US HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION**.

<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, **THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND GRACE** to help in time of need.

As long as we maintain our confession, our High Priest (Christ) makes intercession for us. Moreover, as long as Christ makes intercession for us, we have access to God’s mercy and grace (i.e. His salvation).

**Hebrews 7:25**

<sup>25</sup> Wherefore **HE IS ABLE TO SAVE THEM TO THE UTTERMOST** that come unto God by him, seeing **HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION** for them.

3. Lastly, **“WE OVERCOME BY NOT LOVING OUR LIVES UNTO DEATH.”**

If we want to overcome in our temptations, we must love God more than our life.

**John 21:15**

**<sup>15</sup> So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.**

Jesus was challenging Peter to see if Peter truly loved Him more than “these”. This is what our trials come to prove. They come to prove what we love the MOST—God or our life!

**Daniel 3:13–16**

**<sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar in *his* rage and fury commanded to bring SHADRACH, MESHACH, and ABED-NEGO. Then they brought these men before the king. <sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?* <sup>15</sup> Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, YE SHALL BE CAST THE SAME HOUR INTO THE MIDST OF THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE; and who *is* that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?**

Nebuchadnezzar threatened to kill the Hebrew boys if they did not renounce their faith in God. Of course, they DID NOT give in to the king’s demands. But, *how* were they able to resist such a terrible threat?

**Daniel 1:8, 11–12**

**<sup>8</sup> But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would NOT DEFILE HIMSELF WITH THE PORTION OF THE KING’S MEAT, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. <sup>11</sup> Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> PROVE THY SERVANTS, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them GIVE US PULSE TO EAT, and water to drink.**

The reason they were able to resist the king of Babylon is because of what they *ate* prior to being tempted (i.e. pulse or edible seeds)! If we want to overcome when we are tested, then we must learn to delight in God’s word.

**Psalm 119:92**

**92 Unless THY LAW *had been* my delights, I should then have PERISHED IN MINE AFFLICTION.**

Unless we make the God's word our delight, we'll perish (be vulnerable) when we are afflicted (or tempted). Never forget this—A strong spirit will sustain you in trouble.

**Proverbs 18:14**

**14 THE SPIRIT OF A MAN WILL SUSTAIN HIS INFIRMITY; But a wounded spirit who can bear?**

You must keep your spirit (confession, faith) strong even when your flesh (body) is not.