

# #5 How To Handle *Temptation*. BOOK REVIEW

*No temptation has overtaken you  
that is not common to man.*

**God is faithful,**

*and he will not let you be tempted  
beyond your ability,*

*but with the temptation he will also provide*

**the way of escape,**

*that you may be able to endure it.*

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

# Proof Is In The TEST!

- Thirdly, is the “WAY TO TEST,” or the “How” to test.

We need to know **how** to know that something comes from the Spirit of God. And he tells us, "**By this..**" and then goes on to identify what "**this**" refers to.

- Here are the “Three Tests” that will reveal that something is coming from the Spirit of God, and not a demon spirit.

## 1. THE FIRST TEST, “THE CONFESSION OF THE DIVINE LORD.”

(1 Jn. 4:2) again, "**Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.**" There's one thing demons will inevitably deny in all their demonic systems, and that is they will deny the deity of Jesus Christ. They will deny God in human flesh. In a word, they deny the incarnation. When someone comes and affirms that Jesus Christ is God in flesh, that is divine truth. If you have somebody who denies the Trinity, you have a problem because Jesus Christ cannot be God come in the flesh, the second person of the Trinity in the fullness of what the New Testament teaches about Him if in fact there is not a Trinity.

▪ **THE SECOND TEST “POSSESSION OF THE DEVINE LIFE.”**

It comes from (Rom. 10:9,) *“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord...what...Lord...Lord...Lord.”* Demons recognize His deity. There are others who would recognize or affirm His deity. But it is absolutely critical that you confess Him as Lord.

▪ **Notice: (Lk. 10:16)** *“The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”*

▪ **Notice: (Jn. 8:42)** *“Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.”* In the **INCARNATION**, God becomes a partaker of human nature.  
In **REGENERATION**, man becomes a partaker of the divine nature.

▪ **Notice: (1 Jn. 4:4)** *“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”*

▪ **Notice: (1 Jn. 2:27)** *“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”*

- **Notice:** (2 Jn. 3) *“Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”*
- **Notice:** (1 Jn. 4:2) *“Jesus Christ has come in the flesh,”* not **“INTO THE FLESH,”**...as if the Christ's spirit...just came down and temporarily went into some man, stayed there for a while and then left. It doesn't say that He came into the flesh, it says that He came in the flesh. He didn't descend into an already existing man; He came and was born. He came and actually indwelt that little tiny baby in the mystery of the incarnation in the very womb of Mary and was framed and formed there into the God/Man.
- **JESUS CHRIST ALSO IS FULL OF MEANING.** *“JESUS,”* is the Greek form of *“JOSHUA,”* which means **Jehovah saves.** *“CHRIST”* means the **Anointed One, the King, the Messiah.** **So, YOU HAVE TO CONFESS** that this is the God/Man who came as God's chosen King and Messiah and took on flesh to be a substitute for sinners. And on the other side of that, **V:3,** *“Every spirit that does not confess Jesus in this way is not from God.”*

- **THE BIBLE TEACHES, WHEREVER JESUS IS NOT CONFESSED, YOU CAN'T KNOW GOD.** Every spirit that comes up with any religion, any spiritual teaching that leaves out Jesus, is not from God. Any redefinition of Jesus or the absence of Jesus is not from God.
- **Notice: (1 Jn. 4:3) it says, *"This is the spirit of antichrist of which you heard it is coming and now it is already in the world."***
- **SO, WHEREVER CHRIST IN HIS TRUE PERSON IS DENIED, you have demonic data. Any system that denies the deity of Christ, anything from **CHRISTIAN SCIENCE** to **ISLAM**, any of it that denies the true nature of Jesus Christ **IS FROM DEMONS, THE SPIRIT OF ERROR.****
- **Notice: (1 Jn. 2:18) *"Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour."*** In other words, we know Christ has come because of all the attacks on Him.

# The Holy Spirit Works In The TRUE Believer.

- YOU UNDERSTAND BECAUSE YOU HAVE *THE MIND OF CHRIST*, (1 Cor. 2).

God has planted His truth in you, planted His Spirit in you as a resident teacher. You are impervious, in one sense, from fatal error. You can be led astray on some issues, **but not concerning the truth of the gospel.**

- YOU *POSSESS GOD'S LIFE*.

You possess God's Spirit. And that's another simple test. Does this teacher possess divine life? Are they from God? Are they free from error, **heresy?**

- As you *LISTEN* to what people have to say, you can be **"discerning"** because you know the truth. You have spiritual instincts that are right and accurate. You can trust them. When you hear somebody teaching something, and you say to yourself, **"That is not right,"** that's the Spirit of God, the truth of God kicking in and acting in a discerning fashion on your behalf.
- As you *WALK* in the Spirit and *WALK* in obedience to the truth, the Spirit of God exercises that protective influence. You are saved because **you know the truth and believe the truth.** It is the **"evidence"** of your regeneration. And there will be in your life the fruit of that regeneration.

## So... How Do You **TEST PEOPLE?**

1. BY THEIR VIEW OF CHRIST. “CHRISTOLOGY.” The “**INCARNATION.**”
2. BY HOW THEY LIVE. Do they manifest, do they demonstrate the characteristics of “**regeneration**” (are they born from above)? Remember, The Bible says, “**You're from God, you're His little children, you have overcome them.**” You've overcome the world,” and that's what moves them, controls them, attracts them, dominates them.
3. THE **THIRD TEST** “THE PROFESSION OF THE DIVINE LAW.”  
Notice: (1 Jn. 4:5) “**They are from the world; therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.**” The false teachers are very popular. That's a dead giveaway. The source of their knowledge is “**The World.**”

Notice: (1 Jn. 4:6) “**We're from God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not from God does not listen to us.”**

HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE. When you meet these teachers, and listen to their teaching, you test their Christology. What's their doctrine of the incarnation? You test their regeneration. Are they manifesting evidences of being a child of God, or are they just parroting stuff from the world?

- And then, **THIRDLY, WHEN YOU BRING THE “LAW OF GOD” TO BEAR UPON THEM, DO THEY RESPOND TO IT?** Do they express devotion to the divine law? And that's V :6 ***“He who knows God listens to us.”*** Do these false teachers/religions **“SUBMIT”** to the authority of **SCRIPTURE?**
- Notice: (2 Jn. 9) ***“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”***

# You Must **“TRY”** The **SPIRIT’ S** . **JUDE 2-4**

- *“May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. (3) Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. (4) For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

# Studying The Seasons of Temptation.

- A. THE TEMPTATION OF YOUTH: Primarily when we are young temptation comes in the realm of the **BODY**. Sex, drugs, violence, rebellion, laziness. Even though a person of any age can succumb to these temptations, they are primarily sins of youth.
- B. THE TEMPTATIONS OF MIDDLE AGE: The **WORLD** is the primary agent of temptation for the middle aged. This sin involves the soul, (ego) wanting the **biggest, newest**, and the **best**. Biggest house, yard, pool. New car, clothes. Best of everything, kids, achievements, trophies, and sometimes that includes “spouse.” They spend their time, resources, and energy chasing after the world.
- C. THE TEMPTATION OF OLD AGE: You're too old to chase the kids, and you never achieved “Big-shot” status in middle age, so now you're listening to the voices of **DOUBT**, and **FEAR**. The agent of this temptation is none other than the **DEVIL** himself. You began to believe the lies that “**God doesn't love you anymore.**” “You're going to run out of retirement money and be left homeless.” “Some crazy disease is waiting to befall you, and you're going to die alone.” **FORGETTING** the mercy, grace, and providence of God that has seen you through all these many years.

# Subduing The **PULL** of **Temptation**.

- When you understand how the **WORLD** , the **FLESH**, and the **DEVIL** work, then you are able to get **VICTORY** over these areas of temptation.

## 1. GETTING VICTORY OVER THE **WORLD** YOU NEED “FAITH.”

Remember the “world” is the “External foe.” Notice: (1 Jn. 5:4) *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”* It’s not just faith in the “general” sense; it is “specific” faith in Jesus.” Notice (1 Jn. 5:5) *“Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”* Remember, a worldly (**carnal**) Christian is trying to satisfy life’s hidden hunger with an ungodly system of values. A Christian is someone who has seen Jesus with the eye of faith and realizes how wonderful He is. They have found their satisfaction in the Son of God.

Don’t forget (1 Jn. 2:15) *“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* “FAITH” makes Jesus a reality in our lives, therefore He’s truly more than enough to satisfy!

*“If your satisfied with steak, you won’t want the devil’s crumbs!”*

# Subduing The **PULL** of Temptation.

## 2. GETTING VICTORY OVER THE **FLESH** YOU NEED “FLIGHT.”

Remember the “**FLESH**” is the “**INTERNAL**” foe. Notice: (2 Tim. 2:22) *“Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”* We are not told to “**FIGHT,**” but to “**FLEE.**”

Notice: (1 Cor. 6:18) *“Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.”* Why should we run, and not fight?

Notice: 1 Cor. 10:13) *“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”*

Truth is, if you're struggling to keep your mind, and heart pure, then **DON'T** watch that garbage, or read that trash. If you're trying to lose weight, then throw out the “**LITTLE DEBBIE'S.**” Whatever is tempting your flesh **GET RID OF IT!** *“He who would not fall down ought not to walk in slippery places.”*

# Subduing The **PULL** of Temptation.

## 3. GETTING VICTORY OVER THE **DEVIL** YOU NEED “FIGHT.”

Remember, the “**DEVIL**” is the “**INFERNAL**” foe. Notice: (Eph. 6:12) *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* Notice also: (James. 4:7) *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* You can use “faith,” and you can use “flight,” but against the devil, you better learn to **FIGHT!**

It’s not a matter of you being afraid of the devil, the question is, is he afraid of you? Notice: (Rev. 12:11) *“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”*

**SO HOW DO I FIGHT?** By confessing any, and all unrepented sin that would sever your “Fellowship” with God. **MAKE SURE YOUR HEART IS CLEAN!**

**SECONDLY**, Proclaim who you are in Jesus' name, not who you feel like you are, but who the bible says you are, and the devil **WILL FLEE** from you.

***“YOU CAN KNOW VICTORY, AND TURN TEMPTATION INTO TRIUMPH.”***