

#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

THE SOURCE OF *Temptation.*

• TEMPTATION will come through Three avenues.

1. THE WORLD.

2. THE DEVIL.

3. THE FLESH.

1. THE EXTERNAL FOE-THE "WORLD."

- Notice: (1Jn. 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."*
- Notice: (Rom. 12:2) *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

Understanding **BODY, SOUL,** and **SPIRIT.**

• What Do I **NEED TO KNOW?**

1. With your **“BODY”** you have **“PHYSICAL”** life, and you know the world beneath you.
2. With your **“SOUL”** you have **“PSYCHOLOGICAL”** life, and you know the world around you, and within you.
3. With your **“SPIRIT”** you have **“SPIRITUAL”** life, and you know the world above you.
 - When your **“BODY”** is right, then your **“HEALTHY.”**
 - When your **“SOUL”** is right, then your **“HAPPY.”**
 - When your **“SPIRIT”** is right, then your **“HOLY.”**
 - This was the original intent of creation. This is what made Adam whole!
 - Remember: The World is **“OUT OF WHACK,”** because of **“SIN.”** When the devil comes to tempt, he attacks the **body, soul, or spirit.**

How Do believers “RESIST” The Devil?

- **Notice: (James. 4:7)** *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*
- Peter commands Christians to have a mind that is resolute and to **RESIST** Satan by being **FIRM IN** their **FAITH**.
- **“RESIST” means:** *“TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST,”* and to be **“FIRM”** is to make that stand solid (the Greek is *stereos*, from which comes the English *stereo*, meaning **“solid,”** or **balanced at both ends**). That is done by being solidly fixed on *the faith (te pistei)*, which is biblical revelation. It is the **whole body of revealed truth contained in Scripture**.
- This is a call to **KNOW** and **BELIEVE SOUND DOCTRINE**, to be discerning in distinguishing truth from error, and to be willing to defend the truth and expose error.
- **Jude’s call is most appropriate in this connection:** Notice: (Jude. 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”* It is that **“ONCE-FOR-ALL”** faith which is the inscripturated revelation of God and constitutes the **FAITH** on which believers **STAND SOLIDLY** and from which they continually resist Satan.

- This **“STRONG STAND”** is the result of the faithful leading of shepherds in the church, as Paul indicates in: **(Eph. 4:11–14) Notice: “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;”**
- **Understand, SATAN IS A LIAR** (John 8:44; cf. Gen. 3:1; 2 Thess. 2:9) and a **DECEIVER** (Rev. 20:7–8), the only sure way to stand up against him is by faithful obedience to biblical truth. The battle is a spiritual one, in the supernatural realm, as Paul notes in:

- Notice: (2 Cor. 10:3–5) *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”*
- “SPECULATIONS” are satanic **ideologies, ideas, theories, religious philosophies,** and **systems of thought** *“raised up against the knowledge of God”*; that is, they are **ANTI-BIBLICAL** viewpoints that have people captive as if they were imprisoned in a great fortress. Christians cannot smash those ideas with human ingenuity, but only with biblical truth—*“taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”* Only when someone has the mind of Christ on a matter is he rescued from such ideas.

How Do You “Test” The Spirit’s?

- **JOHN understands** how important it is to realize that you can't believe everything you hear, you can't believe everything that is purported to come from God, you can't believe everything that is supposedly biblical. Cannot believe all teachers of religion, you cannot believe all Christian preachers, or Christian evangelists or teachers. You cannot believe all who came...who claim to speak for God and claim to have a prophetic voice that is set loose in the world.
- **Notice: (1 Jn. 4:1-6)** *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 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. 5 They are from the world; therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”*

- **There is the SPIRIT OF TRUTH**, the Holy Spirit, and there is the spirit of error who would be Satan and his demons. Nothing is benign. All spiritual truth either comes from a divine source or a demonic source. And we know that God speaks truth and reveals truth and Satan speaks a lie and is a deceiver and so it is critical that we be able to discern the difference. God's truth must be guarded very, very carefully. It is always under attack. It is relentlessly under attack.
- **This is why the APOSTLE PAUL instructed TIMOTHY at the end of his first letter to him, Notice: (1 Tim. 6 :20) *“O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”—***
- **Here’s how PAUL began his second letter to TIMOTHY. Notice: (2 Tim. 1:13-15) *“Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. 15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.”* Paul is saying to Timothy, **“DON'T BE LIKE THEM, DON'T ABANDON THE TRUTH, DON'T ABANDON ME THE TRUE APOSTLE.”****

- 
- **IT'S THE *GUARDIANSHIP* THAT IS SO IMPORTANT.** There are always false religionists, cultists. There are always those who come along with their deceptive schemes that purport to be biblical, that quote Bible verses, that say they have a message from God, that have a better way to understand the Bible and apply the Bible to make the Bible acceptable, to make the gospel acceptable. There are those who in outright fashion attack the Bible and then there are those who are much more subtle than that. But we are constantly being called to the defense of the Scripture and the defense of the truth.

TWO REQUIREMENTS ARE NEEDED TO “GUARD” THE TRUTH.

1. **FIRST**, you have to *“know the truth.”* That's why Paul said to Timothy, *“Hold on to sound doctrine.”* You can't guard what you don't understand. If a minister or a pastor does not know sound doctrine, he can't guard it. So, first of all, it requires the knowledge of sound doctrine, and
2. **SECONDLY**, it requires the *“Recognition of error.”* **SOUND DOCTRINE** and **SOUND DISCERNMENT**, are essential in the church. This is our primary responsibility, and it runs parallel to our teaching. How can we teach sound doctrine if we don't know it, how can we teach our people to avoid error if we don't recognize it. Sound doctrine and sound discernment go side by side and are the primary responsibility of every preacher, every elder, every shepherd and pastor in the church. And **JOHN** discharges that responsibility. John knows sound doctrine and he articulates it, and John also possesses sound discernment, and he provides helpful warnings to aid others to do the same.

- **IN (1 JN. 4,) JOHN COMMANDS BELIEVERS TO TEST THE SPIRITS.**

This is necessary if you're going to discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. You have to know whatever information is coming to you by **its source**. And again, I say, error is not benign, it is malignant. It is not human, it is demonic. We saw last time, spiritual truth comes from the Holy Spirit, and it is **LIFE-GIVING, LIFE-SUSTAINING, LIFE-PRODUCING, GOD-GLORIFYING**, or it comes from demons. It is either the doctrine of God or the doctrine of demons. It is either that word which is sent and energized by the Holy Spirit, or it is that which comes from seducing spirits. And teachers are either the true teachers of God, or hypocritical liars, espousing the doctrine of demons fostered by seducing spirits. We must know the difference because of the malignancy of error because of the power of truth. **THE TRUTH GIVES LIFE, ERROR KILLS.**

- **FIRST**, John gives us a ***“command” to test, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.”***

- **SECONDLY**, is the ***“reason” for the test***. And the reason is found at the end of V. :1, ***“Because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”***