

#5 How To Handle *Temptation*.

*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

THERE ARE ONLY **THREE** WAYS TO HANDLE *TEMPTATION*.

1. **YOU GIVE IN TO IT**: “What is natural and feels good then just do it.” Give caution to the wind, the animal in you says go with it.
2. **YOU FIGHT IT**: There are those who constantly battle but are constantly losing in the battle. They try to defeat temptation in the energy of the flesh.
3. **YOU OVERCOME IT THROUGH CHRIST**:

Notice: (1 Cor. 10:12-13) You don't have to be defeated by lust. *“Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

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."*

The Second Seat of Temptation

The SOUL. Enemy World.

- **Your soul** is the “psychological part of you. It consists of your MIND, EMOTIONS, and WILL. It’s your sense of humor, intellect, temperament, taste, ego, and self.
- **Notice: (1 Pet. 2:11)** *“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”*
- **So do you want to be a stranger to God, or a stranger in the world?**

You can't be both. **Notice: (James. 4:4)** *“Don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”* This doesn't mean you shouldn't build friendships with people who don't know the Lord. But it does mean that Christians are not to make an alliance with sinful desires. It should feel strange to us to indulge in anything which God forbids. And if it doesn't feel strange, then we need to take a hard look at whether we truly have a relationship with God.

- **Notice: (Ephesians 5:3)** *“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.”*
- **Remember**, God judges the **SOURCE** and **ORIGIN** of sin, not it’s manifestation or lack of manifestation!

Be **Who** You Already Are.

- Remember, Peter is urging these believers to abstain from the *“passions of the flesh.”* (1 Pet. 2:11)
- He warns them to do this because these passions are *warring against their souls*, hoping to destroy them.
- Peter just explained **who we are** as believers (**identity**), and then comes to **how we ought to live**. Because of **whom you already are**. Notice: (1 Pet. 2:9–11) *“But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. (11) Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”*
- Some will get this wrong by thinking these kinds of commands are not necessary for believers, because they’ve already been saved. Others will get this wrong by thinking we abstain so that we can be saved. **BOTH ARE SERIOUSLY WRONG.**

BE WHO YOU ALREADY ARE.

- The text tells us who we are, and then gives us the command (so that we increasingly become who we already are). Those who walk in love and crucify their flesh (not perfectly) **are showing they have already been made new through faith.**
- The same pattern shows up in (1 Cor. 5:6–7) ***“Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? (7) Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”*** Be about becoming something new, because you already have been made new.
- You don’t become a good tree by bearing good fruit. You show that you are a good tree by bearing good fruit. **(Matt. 7:17–20)**
- When you abstain from the passions of the flesh, you’re not making yourself God’s chosen people, but revealing that you already are God’s chosen people.

HOW DO PASSIONS DESTROY YOU?

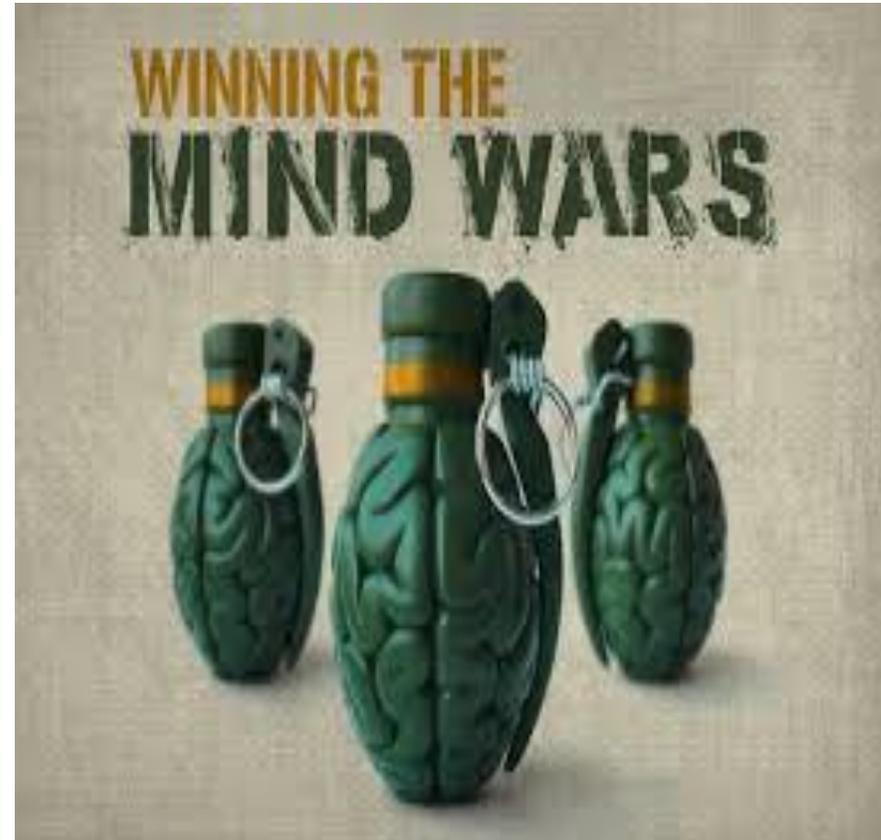
- How do your passions war against you and try to destroy you? (1 Pet. 2:11) **Notice:** that the **“SOUL”** of a man or woman is the place of godly thinking, living, and choosing. That is why fleshly passions wage war against it.
 1. The **ENEMY** is not your **SOUL**.
 2. The **ENEMY** is your **FLESH!**
 3. The **ENEMY** is not your **MIND**.
 4. The **ENEMY** is your **FLESH!**
- You exist (were made) to proclaim **“excellent things”** about God. (1 Pet. 2:9)
- **The passions of the flesh:** These are any passions that cause you to stop marveling most in the excellency of God They **DIM** and **DESTROY** your passions for God.
- They do this by making other things **look brighter** and **more beautiful** than God. (1 Pet. 2:11)
- The passions of the flesh strip you of the power to do the thing you were created to do: **“to proclaim God’s excellences.”**

WHAT CAUSES US TO SIN?

- **JAMES** identifies the fundamental cause, or source of our sin: it is our **“PASSIONS”** or **“DESIRES”** that wage war within our souls.
- **Notice: (James. 4:1-3)** *“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have; so, you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so, you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. (3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”*
- **NOTICE WHAT JAMES DOES NOT SAY.**
 1. He doesn't say that the cause of our sinning is Satan.
 2. He doesn't say that you fight and engage in bitter conflict because Satan is at war within you.
 3. He doesn't say that the cause of our sinning is the world and its corrupt ways.
 4. He doesn't say that the cause of our sin is the dysfunctional family in which we were raised.
 5. The **CAUSE** of all our sinning are those **“PASSIONS”** or **“DESIRES”** that wage war within us.

MIND WARS!

➤ (2 Corinthians 10:3–5) *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, (4) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. (5) 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,”*



- The Apostle Paul was in complete agreement with Peter on this point. Notice: (Col. 3:5) *“put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry”*
- Notice: (Mk. 7:21–23) *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, (22) deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. (23) All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”*
- Both **PAUL** and **PETER** is based on their belief that the Christian is **ENERGIZED**, **ANIMATED**, and **EMPOWERED** by the **HOLY SPIRIT (Col. 1:29)**. **NO DESIRE OR PASSION OR URGE** is so entrenched in the human soul that a person indwelt by the Spirit cannot conquer it. But even if you can't conquer it or change it you can, with the Spirit's help, **CHOOSE** not to indulge in it.

- Many contend that you can't simply choose to suppress certain passions. In fact, they argue that it is psychologically dangerous to attempt any such thing. Venting our desires, giving them full and fetterless freedom, is the counsel we most often hear. "Be yourself! Embrace your longings!" And above all else, never judge or condemn someone for their expression or attempt to find fulfillment of these inward urges.
- When I look within myself, I see evil passions and selfish desires and uncleanness and covetousness, and I want nothing of them. These are ***VIOLATIONS*** of my true self. These are invasive enemies from which I long to be delivered by the grace of God. I have no desire to affirm all that is within me. I rather **CHOOSE** to defy much of what is within me. I choose by the grace of God to **OPPOSE IT, DEFEAT IT, and LIVE-IN TRUE FREEDOM FROM ITS ENSLAVING POWER.**

Winning The War For Your Soul.

- In (Eph. 4:22) Paul referred to this as **“DECEITFUL DESIRES.”**
- These *“passions”* or *“desires”* that Paul, Peter and James all mention will always **LIE TO YOU!!!!!!!**
- They will try to deceive you into believing that by indulging them and giving them sway in your life and by making room for them in your experience that you will find real and lasting joy. Don't believe them! They lie!
- They are “deceitful” desires. Fight them with reminders of truth. Fight them by laying hold of the truth found in (Psa. 16:11) ***“You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”***

