

# Exercising Authority: Power Over Temptation

Obedience to God's word humbles our hearts, and empowers us to resist the devil and make him flee!

## The Nature of Temptation

James 1:12-18

New Living Translation

12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong,[a] and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

16 So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.[b] He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.[c] 18 He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.[d]

- Those who love God and endure testing and temptation, receive a crown of life.
- To love God is to obey His word.
- God will allow us to endure the testing of temptation but never tempts us to do wrong.
- Temptation comes from our own desires.
- A test from God is spiritual CAT SCAN/XRAY
- He gave birth to us by giving us His true word/ Jesus Christ/ Scripture.

- Our transformation came about because of our faith to believe on Jesus, our authority is also exercised by faith in His word.

## Tempt Definition:

NOAH WEBSTER'S 1828 DICTIONARY

TEMPT, **verb** transitive [the primary sense is to strain, urge, press.]

1. **To incite or solicit to an evil act; to entice to something wrong by presenting arguments** that are **plausible or convincing**, or **by the offer of some pleasure or apparent advantage as the inducement.**

James 1:14 KJV

Every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed.

1. Lust must already be present which draws a person away from obedience to God.
2. Satan may then entice/tempt because lust is present.

## A Way of Escape From Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:12-14

New Living Translation

12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. 13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

14 So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14

Amplified Bible

12 Therefore let the one who thinks he stands firm [immune to temptation, being overconfident and self-righteous], take care that he does not fall [into sin and condemnation]. 13 No temptation [regardless of its source] has overtaken or enticed you that is not common to human experience [nor is any temptation

unusual or beyond human resistance]; but God is faithful [to His word—He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He [has in the past and is now and] will [always] provide the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy].

14 Therefore, my beloved, run [keep far, far away] from [any sort of] idolatry [and that includes loving anything more than God, or participating in anything that leads to sin and enslaves the soul].

1 John 5:18-21

Amplified Bible

18 We know [with confidence] that anyone born of God does not habitually sin; but He (Jesus) who was born of God [carefully] keeps and protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know [for a fact] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] lies in the power of the evil one [opposing God and His precepts]. 20 And we [have seen and] know [by personal experience] that the Son of God has [actually] come [to this world], and has given us understanding and insight so that we may [progressively and personally] know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true—in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children (believers, dear ones), guard yourselves from idols—[false teachings, moral compromises, and anything that would take God's place in your heart].

- The born again are kept by Jesus (The Word).
- The evil one does not touch Him? Lust is not living inside of Him leading them to the habitual enticements of the evil one.
- The whole world around us is under the power of the evil one. The father of lies!
- But Jesus came to give us truth!!!!!! So we may know Him who is true!

Romans 12:1-2

New Living Translation

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b]  
2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Psalms 119:9-16

New Living Translation

9 How can a young person stay pure?

By obeying your word.

10 I have tried hard to find you—

don't let me wander from your commands.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

12 I praise you, O Lord;

teach me your decrees.

13 I have recited aloud

all the regulations you have given us.

14 I have rejoiced in your laws

as much as in riches.

15 I will study your commandments

and reflect on your ways.

16 I will delight in your decrees

and not forget your word.

## **Humble Yourself, Resist, Repeat**

James 4:7

New Living Translation

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- If you're not humbling yourself to God and His word, you're being resisted by God Himself.

James 4:6

New Living Translation

6 And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud  
but gives grace to the humble.”[a]

- In order to exercise and be in authority we must first be under authority by humbling ourselves. (1 man police force example)

James 1:13

New Living Translation

13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong,[a] and he never tempts anyone else.

- Since Jesus was God in the flesh on Earth, we will see this truth revealed.

Matthew 4:1-11

New Living Translation

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

3 During that time the devil[a] came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say,

‘People do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect you.  
And they will hold you up with their hands  
so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'[c]"

7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'[d]"

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the Lord your God  
and serve only him.'[e]"

11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

- Humble yourself to God and worship Him only.
- Hide the word of God in your heart and obey.
- Resist evil with the living word