

It Is Written Part 1

Oct 26, 2026

Summary

Temptation: The Constant Companion – Part 1

Big Idea: God allows temptation not to destroy us but to grow our faith; the Spirit who led Jesus through the wilderness now walks with us so we can stand and mature.

Overview

Temptation is unavoidable—whether you live in a monastery or on a desert island, it follows you. The speaker opened a multi-week study on temptation by turning to Matthew 4, where Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness and confronted by Satan. Just after the Father's public affirmation, Jesus faces forty days of relentless testing, showing that spiritual victories are often followed by greater challenges. James 1 urges believers to rejoice in such trials because they produce endurance. Likewise, 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that God will never leave us without a way of escape. The enemy is formidable and crafty, baiting us with perceived lack, yet every temptation is also an opportunity for growth if we depend on the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

Key Scripture

- **Matthew 4** — The foundation of the whole message: Jesus models how to meet temptation with God's Word.
 - **James 1:2–3** — The growth principle: testing of faith develops endurance and maturity.
 - **1 Corinthians 10:13** — The assurance: God always provides a way to stand under temptation.
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Main Points

1. Temptation is universal and unceasing.

- Whether saved or unsaved, alone or in crowds, we carry temptation with us.
- The enemy custom-fits “lures” to our hungers—finances, status, possessions—always starting by convincing us we lack something.

2. Trials are God's gym for faith (James 1).

- Scripture says to “consider it all joy” because testing enlarges faith the way

increasing weights build muscle.

- Each victory takes us “up a level,” but higher levels bring heavier resistance.

3. After affirmation often comes attack.

- Right after the Father declared, “This is my beloved Son,” the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted.
- God did not hedge Jesus in from hardship; instead, He allowed a battleground that would reveal Jesus' obedience.

4. The wilderness test shows both Satan's strategy and our defense.

- Forty days of isolation, weakness, and repeated enticements targeted Jesus' physical needs, identity, and worship.
- Jesus countered each assault with “It is written,” relying on Scripture and the Spirit within Him.
- Our temptations may differ, but the pattern—attack, Word, reliance on the Spirit—remains the same.

5. God is present in every temptation (1 Cor 10:13).

- The promise is not “I've got this” but “I've got you.”
 - The Holy Spirit is our constant companion, offering strength, discernment, and a path of escape.
 - Failures invite repentance and further growth; success builds spiritual “calluses” that ready us for the next test.
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Application

The call: Live this week with open eyes—expect temptation, lean on the Holy Spirit, and answer with God's Word so your faith can grow.

Head — Understand that every believer will face ongoing, sometimes heavier, temptations as faith matures; this is normal and purposeful.

Heart — Desire to be an obedient son or daughter in whom God is “well pleased,” trusting that His presence remains even in silence.

Hands

1. Identify one area where you feel perpetual lack and locate a Bible verse to answer that specific lure.
 2. Invite the Holy Spirit into daily decisions—pause and ask for His counsel before reacting.
 3. When you stumble, practice immediate repentance: acknowledge it, receive grace, and prepare for the next encounter.
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Reflection Questions

1. Where have you recently sensed a “new level” of temptation following a spiritual win?
 2. What lure does the enemy most often dangle in front of you, and why does it appeal to you?
 3. How does knowing that Jesus was led by the Spirit into testing change your view of your own trials?
 4. In what practical ways can you rely on the Holy Spirit rather than sheer willpower when temptation strikes?
 5. What Scripture will you memorize this week to wield as Jesus did with “It is written” ?
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Prayer

Father, thank You for never leaving us alone in the wilderness moments of life. As You strengthened Your beloved Son, strengthen us. Open our eyes to the enemy's lures, fill our hearts with Your Word, and remind us that the Spirit within us is greater than any temptation before us. When we fail, draw us quickly to repentance; when we stand, deepen our humility and trust. May every test grow our faith and bring You glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.