

FIVE FACTS ABOUT TEMPTATION

Pastor Chad Gilligan | August 28, 2022

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I. FIVE FACTS ABOUT TEMPTATION

1. *There is a Tempter*

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

2. *We Are All Tempted*

Matthew 4:2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

A. Jesus was tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

B. God does not tempt us.

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

C. Temptation and testing may be the same thing.

Matthew 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

D. Temptation distorts our identity.

E. Temptation separates us from our Father.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

F. Temptation plays to our weaknesses.

1 John 2:16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Matthew 4:5-6 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

- Temptation challenges us to distrust God.

Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

- Temptation focusses on self.

3. Every Temptation is a Transaction

A. Temptation encourages you to trade who you really are for a cheap substitute.

Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

B. Temptation often comes in seasons.

Luke 4:13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

C. Temptation keeps on coming.

4. *We Tackle Temptation with Truth*

A. Transactional Truth

1 John 2:17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

B. Scriptural Truth

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- Scripture reminds me that my hope is in the Lord.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- Scripture affirms that I will trust in Him.

Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

- Scripture promises that God has better things for me.

C. God's Truth

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- God's ways are always better.

5. *The Spirit Helps Us*

Matthew 3:16 - 4:1 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.