

“It is easier to stay out of trouble than to get out of trouble.”

Temptations call us to sacrifice long-term goals and exchange them for short-term pleasures.

No temptation has overtaken you, but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

We must recognize our responsibility in facing temptation.

We must recognize overcoming temptation hinges on our relationship with God.

We must recognize that the door to escape is found when we protect ourselves from ourselves.

“The Sting must be Greater than the Thing.”

Our desire to succumb to temptation will always affect more than ourselves.

Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12

And all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:4

Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. 1 Corinthians 10:5

The Sting must be Greater than the Thing

*Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.
1 Corinthians 10:11*

What is the purpose of temptation?

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
James 1:2-4*

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12

What is the problem with temptation?

*Keep watching and praying that you may not enter temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
Matthew 26:41*

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:6-8

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. Luke 4:2

When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding districts. Luke 4:13-14

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. Galatians 5:17

How do we remain strong when temptation comes?

Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

THE BESETTING SIN MODEL

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What do we do if we are inclined to fall to temptation?

Take responsibility for your own spiritual walk.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. James 1:13-14

Build accountability around yourself.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. James 5:16

Protect yourself from yourself.

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. James 1:14-15