

TEMPTATION.

Dear brothers and sisters! Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

James 1:12-17 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. [13] Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: [14] But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. [16] Do not err, my beloved brethren. [17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Temptation is common to every man. As long as we live in this world there will be some kind of temptation. If you are not being tempted now, it is the good time to prepare. So when the temptation comes, you will be ready to face it. It is good to build the house before the storm. Temptation is one of the subjects grossly misunderstood and misused. Because of this the devil is playing havoc in many believers' lives. Many even now believe God is the one who tempts them. The devil is called the tempter (*Mt 4:3; 1Th 3:5*). God is not. God do not tempt a New Covenant believer.

One of the reasons many people could not go forward in fulfilling their mission is, temptations taking them away from their course. In 1 Cor. 10:12, Paul was admonishing those who thought they were strong because of their superior knowledge to be careful because even they could be tempted. No one is beyond temptation. Knowing the truths will make you a better equipped person to face the temptation when it comes to you the next time. So that you can stay on course, go on and fulfill God's plan for your lives. You don't have to live a life often defeated by devil's deceptions. You can live a victorious life in Christ.

Word Study.

The Greek word for 'temptation' is "**peirasmos**"; It is used of

(1) "trials" with a beneficial purpose and effect,

(a) of "**trials**" or "**temptations**," divinely permitted or sent, *Luke 22:28; Acts 20:19; Jas. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:6; 4:12, 2 Pet. 2:9, Rev. 3:10.*

(b) with a good or neutral significance, Gal. 4:14, of **Paul's physical infirmity**, "a temptation" to the Galatian converts, of such a kind as to arouse feelings of natural repugnance;

(c) of "**trials**" of a **varied character**, *Matt. 6:13 and Luke 11:4*, where believers are commanded to pray not to be led into such by forces beyond their own control; In *Matt. 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 22:40,46*, they are commanded to watch and pray against entering into "temptations" by their own carelessness or disobedience; in all such cases God provides "the way of escape," *1 Cor. 10:13.*

(2) Of "**trial**" **definitely designed to lead to wrong doing**, "temptation," *Luke 4:13; 8:13; 1 Tim. 6:9;*

(3) of "**trying**" or **challenging God**, by men, Heb. 3:8.

Jas. 1:12, "temptation" apparently has meanings (1) and (2) combined (see below), and is used in the widest sense; (**VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY.**)

TEST, TRY.

Verb. tsarap ; "to refine, try, smelt, test." The verb occurs fewer than 35 times in the Old Testament, mainly in the prophets and in the Book of Psalms. Judg. 7:4. "to test," to find out who is qualified for battle. *Jer. 6:29, Jer. 6:30, Isa. 40:19, Isa. 41:7, Ps. 66:10-12, Isa. 1:25, Zech. 13:9, Mal.3:2-3, Ps. 119:140, Ps. 18:30; Prov. 30:5. (VINE'S)*

TRIAL

1. dokime . EXPERIENCE, 2 Cor. 8:2
2. peira . "a making trial, an experiment," Heb. 11:29., Deut. 28:56
3. peirasmos . akin to No. 2, is rendered "trials" in Acts 20:19.
4. purosos . "to set on fire," signifies (a) "a burning"; (b) "a refining," metaphorically in 1 Pet. 4:12, "fiery trial," or rather "trial by fire," referring to the refining of gold 1:7 (VINE'S)

Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

(1.) Trial; a being put to the test. Thus God "tempted ((Gen 22:1); R.V., 'did prove') Abraham;" and afflictions are said to tempt, i.e., to try, men (Jas 1:2, 12; Compare Deut 8:2), putting their faith and patience to the test.

(2.) Ordinarily, however, the word means solicitation to that which is evil, and hence Satan is called "the tempter" (Mat 4:3).

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon.

"an experiment, attempt, trial, proving"; "an enticement to sin, temptation,

Webster Dictionary; Tempt; 1.To attempt to persuade (a person) to do wrong, as by promising pleasure or gain. 2. To test, prove.

From the above we can understand that all the words mentioned as "**temptation**" do not actually mean "**solicitation to sin**" as we normally think. If we take the meaning under the following two main categories 1. "**An experiment, attempt, trial, proving**" 2. "**An enticement to sin.**" , It will be easy to understand many scriptures and the whole subject. With this understanding of the meanings you will be better informed about Temptation, how to face it and how to deal it. Usually people call all the trials, tests, sufferings, problems, diseases, failures as Temptation and is God ordained. It is not so.

3 Primary areas of Temptation:

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Everything evil can be put into these three categories. In Ge 3 Adam and Eve very clearly were tempted with the lust of the flesh (hunger), the lust of the eyes (the tree was pleasant to the eyes), and the pride of life (a tree to be desired to make one wise).

Jesus had three temptations that could easily be conformed to these three things.

- (1) The lust of the flesh = (*Matth 4:3*) Temptation to satisfy hunger by turning stone into bread;
- (2) The lust of the eyes = (*Matth 4:9*) Temptation to acquire all the glory of the kingdoms of this world by worshipping Satan; and
- (3) The pride of life = (*Matth 4:6*) Temptation to "show off" His power by having the angels come to His rescue.

Heb 4:15 says, *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."* Jesus wasn't tempted with the individual things that confront us today. But He was tempted in these three areas, which are the root of all temptations. In fact, these are the only areas the devil can tempt us.

If you are the son of God.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Two out of three of the devil's temptations began with, "**If you are the Son of God...**" The actual temptation presented to Jesus was the opportunity to doubt who He was. Jesus knew His true identity and what His mission was from an early age. Satan was trying to get Jesus to prove His identity, which would only have revealed His doubt if He had done so.

Likewise, we have to know who we are and what we can do in the Lord. Satan will always try and make us doubt our true identities in the spirit and try to get us to establish new identities by the things we do.

Being tempted is not sin.

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

Temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted but He didn't sin. Therefore, regardless of what thoughts or desires come to us, it's not sin unless we welcome those things. As long as we resist in our thoughts and actions, we haven't sinned.

Temptation is common.

1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

There are no unique temptations. The devil likes to make us think there are. If he can convince us no one understands, no one has ever had this problem before, and then he can isolate us and take away our hope. But any temptation we face is just some variation of the same old thing. It may come in a different size box, be wrapped in a different paper and have a different bow, but the contents are the same. Understanding this defuses much of the power of temptation.

Even though temptation is universal to mankind, we are not left on our own. God is faithful. Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are and yet, he overcame every time (*Heb 4:15*). Part of His ministry is to specifically aid us in overcoming temptation (*Heb 2:17-18*). This verse gives us God's word that He will not suffer us to be tempted beyond our ability. That means there will be a supernatural intervention if the temptation exceeds our limit to bear. If anyone says I have tried my best to bear and I couldn't resist the temptation so I yielded to it, it is a lie, because, if the temptation is more than what he can bear, God would have definitely intervened.

THE PROCESS OF TEMPTATION.

James 1:13-14 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 17 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Seven Steps in Temptation

1.Tempted: Thought of evil (*James 1:14*) The beginning of temptation is a **thought**. A thought means 'something which you are thinking about'. You cannot do anything without first thinking on it. Everything you do actually begin with a thought. Thoughts are important. They decide your life.

*2 Cor. 10:4-5 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every **thought** to the obedience of Christ;*

*Proverbs 23:7 For as he **thinketh** in his heart, so is he:*

*Romans 8:6 For to be carnally **minded** is death; but to be spiritually **minded** is life and peace.*

*Hebrews 11:15 And truly, if they had been **mindful** of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*

*Philip. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think** on these things.*

The thoughts in the mind are produced from three sources.

1. Our mind.
2. The Holy Spirit.
3. The law of sin (power of sin).

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

The Greek word translated "law" three times in this verse is "nomos" meaning **"a force or influence impelling to action"** (Vines). So, these verses are not speaking of the "old self" or "sin nature" directly but rather of its influence.

In verse 22, this same Greek word was used to refer to the law of God. In that instance it is clear that this is speaking of the influence of God through His precepts and not the divine person Himself. Likewise, in verse 23, the **influence of the "old man"** is what is being spoken of.

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Our "old self" (old man – old nature) is dead and gone, but it left behind a **body. Attitudes and emotions** are the body of the old man. This still influences us until we renew our minds. We are not dealing directly with the "old sin nature" but with its influence that is still being exerted through our unregenerate flesh. This influence of the old man is called **"the law of sin"** or **"the power of sin"**. So, the Christian life is a renewal of our minds to who we have become in Christ, not a hatred for who we are in our "old self."

The law of sin (power of sin) presents thoughts to the believer's mind in two ways.

- a. It uses I, me, my, my self, etc, and presents thoughts to the believer's mind as though it is 'His'.
- b. It uses the flesh patterns in the brain (memory traces of the old habits left in the brain), and present thoughts to the mind as though they are being generated by one's own mind. (In Phil 3:4-8 the Bible calls the old ways which we have learned through walking in the world "flesh")

Once the Believer "sets his mind" on them and accepts them they become his thoughts, and he is deceived into "doing the very thing he does not wish" (*Rom. 7:15*).

2.Drawn away: strong imagination (*James 1:14*) Imagination; The formation of a mental image. This word, in other places is translated as Deep thought, Understanding, Meditate.

The imagination of man is literally the womb of man where all actions are conceived (*Genesis 6:5*) . There can be no real transformation of actions without it first starting in our imagination. You can not meditate without your imagination. Meditation is taking words and pondering them until it forms a picture in your imagination. Then that picture we see on the inside will dictate what we see on the outside. (*1 chro 29:18, Ps 2:1. Rom 1:21.*)

3.Lust: delight in viewing it (*James 1:14*) epithumia, a longing (especially for what is forbidden) :- concupiscence, desire, lust (after). Inordinate or excessive desire.

If evil thoughts are entertained, they become lusts. and as Jesus is teaching in Matth 5:28, we are, in the eyes of God, guilty of committing the act. Just having a thought is not sin. Enjoying, entertaining, and dwelling on that thought (which is lust) is sin. Even Jesus had emotions that were contrary to God's will(John 12:27). *Hebrews 4:15* says Jesus "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Therefore, we see that having an emotion or desire contrary to God's will is not always sin. It's when we yield to these thoughts by entertaining them they become).

The Christian life is a battle against demonic forces, temptation, the flesh, and the lust of the world (*2 Tim. 4:7, Eph 6:12; 1Jo 2:15-17*). The grace of God teaches us to deny these wordly lusts. (*Titus 2:11-12*).

4. Enticed: weakening of the will (James 1:14) **Deleazo;** to *entrap*, i.e. (figurative) *delude* :- allure, beguile, entice. Dragging a fish out of the water by a hook which it had swallowed, because concealed by a bait

5.Lust conceived: yielding (James 1:15)

"Evil concupiscence is at the beginning like the thread of a spider's web; afterwards it is like a cart rope."- (*Sanhedrin*, fol. 99). It is lust that conceives sin. The NIV calls this desire. This is saying that sin is conceived in our emotions. If we don't want to sin, then we have to control our emotions. Sin isn't smart; it is emotional. Those who indulge negative emotions and yet don't want the sin that conceives are like a woman who has physical relations with a man but doesn't want to be pregnant. That's foolishness. To stop sin we have to stop the conception through not having intercourse with negative emotions – lust.

6.Sin: sinful act committed (*James 1:15*) consummated, performed.

7.Death: result of actual sin (*James 1:15*) Everything that bring forth death.

HOW TO DEAL WITH TEMPTATION.

From the process of temptation we can understand that the beginning of temptation is a 'thought'. If we deal and nip the thought in the first stage itself, then we don't have to deal with the latter stages.

How to deal with the thoughts, and so deal with the temptation?

1. Know that you are made free from the law of sin.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

We studied from Rom 8:23, that the 'law of sin' presents thoughts contrary to the Word of God, to the mind. But we have to know that we don't have to take all that it brings to us. We don't have to obey the law of sin. We are set free from the law of sin. Who did this? '**the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus**'. Knowing this truth is a powerful weapon for the believer in his fight against the temptation.

A law is something that is consistent and universal, like the law of gravity. If gravity only worked in one country, or if it only worked sometimes, then it would be a phenomenon, not a law. A law has to be overcome by another law. This is what the 'law of the Spirit of life' does. The life the Spirit brings to the believer is consistent and universal. It never fails to set believers free from the consistent and universal death that sin produces. But this freedom has to be appropriated. Many slaves were freed by the Emancipation Act, but not all of them went free immediately because they had the truth hidden from them. Likewise, we have been freed, but not all Christians experience that freedom because they are ignorant of what is rightfully theirs.

2. Renew the mind.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

When anyone gets born again (*Joh 3:3*), he becomes a totally new creation in his spirit. His spiritual salvation is complete. He doesn't need any more faith, joy, or power. He is complete in Him (*Col 2:9-10*). But our minds are not changed. Our minds are the place where many of these temptations take shape. If we think on the same things that the world thinks on, we are going to get the same results. If we keep our minds stayed upon God through the study of His Word and fellowship with Him, then we'll have perfect peace (*Isa 26:3, Rom 8:6*).

3. Use the Spiritual weapons to capture the thoughts.

As long as we are in the world, we will be exposed to evil thoughts. However, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 clearly states that the Lord has given each one of us spiritual weapons that can subdue and take every thought captive to obey Christ. We can limit our contact with sinful thoughts. We do not have to let thoughts become lusts.

2 Cor. 10:4-5 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The mind is the battlefield in which thoughts and reasoning contrary to God's Word are to be captured and submitted to Christ, our Commander. Just as enemy soldiers are captured in war, so rebel thoughts must be taken captive and made to submit to Christ. Keeping our minds completely stayed upon the Lord is an obtainable goal.

4. You can choose your thoughts.

*Philip. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think** on these things.*

A man of God once said something like this, "Evil thoughts are like birds flying over your head. You may not be able to avoid it. But definitely you can stop the birds from building a nest on your head". The Bible tells us that we don't have to sit there and let our thoughts build a nest. We can choose what we think on. So it's really important what we think on.

The Bible also tells us that as a man think in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7). As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. We'll begin to act on those things. We'll begin to play those things out in our lives, and it will destroy our lives. The real spiritual warfare for the believer is really not resisting or rebuking the devil all the time, although there are times that we need to do that. **But spiritual warfare has to do with what we're thinking on and what we're dwelling on.**

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

5. Know and think the Word of God.

The devil cannot deceive us in our thinking until he gets us to consider things contrary to God's Word. This is what he did with Adam and Eve. To think only spiritually produces only life and peace (*Ro 8:6*). Thinking spiritually is thinking only God's word (*Joh 6:63*).

Matth 4:4, 7, 10. **"It is written"** Jesus overcame Satan's temptation with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (*Eph 6:17*). Jesus had just received a word from His Father that He was God's Son. He refused to move into doubt and do something in the natural to confirm that Word. His Father had spoken and that was sufficient. Jesus saw no need for any other weapon besides the written Word of God.

6. Prayer;

Temptation is linked directly to what we think upon (*Heb 11:15*). Temptation has to be entered into. We can avoid temptation by avoiding thinking on things that gender temptation (*Pr 23:7*). Since there is no such thing as not thinking, we cannot just try to reject all the negative thoughts of this world, but we must also think on the positive truths of God. This is where prayer comes in. In prayer, we have our minds stayed upon God and therefore are not receptive to the thoughts that conceive temptation (*Isa 26:3; Php 4:8*). Temptation or sin must be conceived (*Jas 1:14-15*). Just as in the physical realm, the easiest way to avoid an unwanted birth is to avoid conception, so in the spiritual world, it is easier to avoid being tempted by being in constant communion with God than it is to overcome temptation once it has been conceived.

7. Fasting;

Matthew 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

The influence that comes from our physical senses isn't sin, but it can lead to sin if we are moved more by what we see, taste, hear, smell, or feel than by what God has said. Therefore, Jesus deadened Himself to

the control of His senses by fasting and praying. If Jesus, whose senses were sinless, had to subdue them, then how can we succeed in the Christian battle without bringing our corrupted senses under control? Fasting is referred to 94 times in scripture.

Fasting accomplishes many things. One of the greatest benefits of fasting is that through denying the lust of the flesh, the spirit man gains ascendancy. Fasting is a powerful weapon to be used in the battle described in Galatians 5:17. Fasting was always used as a means of seeking God to the exclusion of all else. Fasting does not cast out demons as Matthew 17:21 might suggest at first glance; but rather, it casts out unbelief because of the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, fasting is beneficial to every aspect of the Christian life-not only in the casting out of devils.

8. Prepare your heart in advance.

Psalms 57:7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

1 Samuel 24:4 ; And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the Lord said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

No one would have blamed David for killing Saul. Many would have applauded it. But David couldn't do it. Long before this time, his heart was fixed (*Ps 57:7*) that he would not be the one to kill Saul. If he hadn't prepared his heart in advance (*2Ch 12:14*), David wouldn't have been able to have resisted this temptation.

We can't wait until we are in a situation to decide what we will do. We have to predetermine that we will not transgress against the Lord or people, and situations will present themselves in such a way they will convince us that wrong is right. By making the right choices in advance over a long period of time, we can build up enough momentum that we can't stop on a small temptation and go the other direction. The best way to overcome temptation is to make choices in advance that harden our hearts towards sin and make us sensitive towards God.

The Hebrew word KUWN that was translated "fixed" here was translated "prepared" in *2Ch 12:14*. That verse says "And he [Rehoboam] did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." We can predetermine our actions. We don't have to be moved by whatever temptation comes our way, but we can fix our heart in such a way that we can't depart from serving God. This is a process and has to be done in advance.

9. Pluck it out.

Matthew 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

This is to be taken in a comparative sense just as Jesus' statements in *Luke 14:26* can be clearly seen to be comparative when contrasted with *Matthew 10:37* Jesus is not advocating dismembering our bodies. He is simply saying that resisting temptation should be more important to us than preserving the parts of our bodies.

10. Do not feed the flesh to fulfill the lusts.

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Paul is using the term "flesh" here as referring to the part of man that has not been changed by Christ, i.e. our sinful appetites and desires. These sinful lusts cannot dominate us if we don't make provision for them. Paul is saying to cut off the flesh's rations and starve it to death.

The reason the flesh seems so strong in many people's lives is because they are continually feeding it. To be clothed with a person is a Greek phrase signifying to take upon one the interests of another; to enter into his views; and be wholly on his side, imitating him in all things. A believer can do this through Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 5:16-17 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. [17] For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Gal 5:24 says that believers have crucified the flesh. This is an accomplished fact done by Jesus Christ. This is not done by us, and we cannot do.

Then Gal 5:16,17 says ' Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

According to Gal 5:24 a believer had already crucified the flesh. Than why a believer has to try not to fulfill the lust of the flesh so that he will not fall into any temptation? We will study about the 'flesh' in detail in another bible study. The simple explanation is this...

There are actually two aspects of flesh. One is the '**sinful aspect ' of the flesh**, and the other is the '**self aspect ' of the flesh**. The cross of Christ dealt with the **sinful aspect of the flesh**, and the Holy Spirit deals with the **self aspect of the flesh**.

Gal 5:16 is not saying that **not walking in the flesh** will produce or result in walking in the Spirit. Just the contrary. Walking in the Spirit will result in not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. We can't make the light come by shoveling out the darkness. You have to turn on the light and drive out the darkness. How do you walk in the Spirit? When we are living by, conducting our actions according to, and following the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are walking in the Spirit.

11. Flee from the area of Temptation.

1 Cor. 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

We are told to resist the devil (*Jas 4:7*) because fleeing from him is neither wise nor possible. As long as we are in this life, we will come in contact with Satan and/or his agents. So we need to stand our ground and fight. He will flee from us. But sin and the temptation to sin is something we can avoid. We are not instructed to resist fornication. We are told to flee fornication.

The dictionary defines "flee" as "1. To run away; 2. To withdraw abruptly; rush off." In every sense of the word it means a removal from a person or thing. This means remove us from the temptation. Many Christians "flirt" with fornication as well as other sins, never intending to commit the physical acts. They are sure they can resist the actual sin. But that is not the way it works. Sin is easier to avoid than it is to resist. If there is an area (person, place, object etc) of temptation, better to be away from the place as far as possible. So that even if some time by mistake we fall or keep a wrong step we won't get into the area of temptation. There will be enough safe are left.

12. Be satisfied.

Col. 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Recognition of our completeness in Christ is a tremendous safeguard against temptaion. Prior to salvation we are incomplete, and there is a constant striving in every person to satisfy that hunger. Through the new birth, we are now complete in Christ, and our hunger should only be for more revelation of what we already have in Christ. Total satisfaction with Christ disarms Satan's lies.

A big part of all temptation is dissatisfaction. Adam and Eve would not have eaten of the forbidden fruit if they hadn't been made dissatisfied with what they had. Through Satan's lie, they were led to believe that they didn't "have it all" (*Ge 3:5*), when the truth was, they did. They were more like God before they ate of the fruit than after eating of the fruit. Their dissatisfaction was a preliminary step to their action of sin. Satan tempts us in the same way he came against Adam and Eve (*2Co 11:3*). Therefore, a full revelation of our completeness in Christ will keep us from chasing after all the things the devil has to offer. If anyone tells you that Christ isn't enough, that you need something more, then that's the devil trying to turn you away from your completeness in Christ.

GOD WILL NOT TEMPT A NEW COVENANT BELIEVER.

Lead us not into temptation.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

God is not the source of our temptation (*Jas 1:13*). Satan is called the tempter (*Mt 4:3; 1Th 3:5*). Then why did Jesus instruct us to pray that the Father would not lead us into temptation? This is simply a request for guidance so that we can be delivered from evil. The Father would no more lead us into temptation than He would withhold our daily bread. But, as stated in *James 4:2*, "ye have not, because ye ask not." Both "give us our daily bread" and "lead us not into temptation" are simply requests for what has already been provided for us. This part of prayer serves as a reminder to us of God's promised protection (*Ps. 91*) and gives us an opportunity to release our faith and appropriate what has already been provide

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Often we can hear statements from believers and preachers like these... "God put me in this problem so that I will be purified..... God gave me this temptation, disease, tribulation, trial, opposition, situation so that my faith will become strong and I will be a better person". These statements will really make the Holy Spirit to feel sad. These are made by people who do not really know anything about the difference between Old Testament and the New Testament, Bible covenants, Law, Grace, Redemption, Chastening, Atonement etc. We will take some bible verses and ponder them to really understand this.

Mark 1:12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

The Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Jesus told us to pray that we would not be led into temptation (*Mt 6:13*). He suffered our temptation for us, so it is not part of God's plan for us to be tempted. But He had to be tempted in all points like we are so He could be a merciful and faithful High Priest (*Heb 2:17*). He also became sin for us so that we could become the righteousness of God (*2Co 5:21*). Does that mean we should become sin? Certainly not! Jesus bore our temptation so that we wouldn't have to bear it. We will be tempted, but it is not God who tempts us with evil (*Jas 1:13*). Jesus died for our sins so that we would not have to pay for them (*Ro 6:23*). Jesus took our sicknesses and diseases so that we could walk in health (*Mt 8:17; 1Pe 2:24*). Jesus became poor so that we, through His poverty, might be rich (*2Co 8:9*). In this case, Jesus was tempted so that we would not be led into temptation.

God's temptation of abraham.

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

The word "tempt" in modern language is nearly always used to indicate an invitation to evil. God never tempts in that sense of the word. Today this would be more accurately rendered that God tested or tried Abraham (*Heb 11:17*). That is the literal meaning of the Hebrew word that was used here.

James 1:2-3 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; [3] Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Trials, temptations, tribulations come, and there is much benefit to be derived from enduring them in a godly manner. But they do not come from God. Thinking that God is the author of our problems will cause us to submit to them instead of resisting them, and that will not work to our advantage. It will work to the devil's advantage. Yet *James 4:7* tells us to submit ourselves to God and resist the devil. If Satan can reverse our thinking on this issue and get us to submit to the problems he brings into our lives, he will make us his slaves (*Ro 6:16*).

It is like the growth of our children. When they learn to walk, we know that by falling and getting up their knees and muscles become strong. But for that purpose we don't push them to the ground often so that their knees and muscles become strong.

Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Tribulations exist, not because God creates them, but because there is a battle between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil. And when we operate in faith, God can grant us such victory that we

are actually better off because of the battle. It's just like when an army goes to war. If they win, there are spoils to be gained and the soldiers gain much experience. But if those soldiers embraced their enemy because of the spoil and experience they were expecting to receive, they would be killed instead of blessed. First, you have to fight and win the war and then, and only then, will the spoils and experience be available. The enemy doesn't come to be a blessing, but a blessing can be obtained from the enemy if we are victorious.

Likewise, tribulations temptations, trials and adversities are not blessings from God. They are attacks from the enemy intended to steal away the Word of God out of our lives. However, there are spoils to be gained when we fight and win over our problems. Problems don't perfect us. God's Word is given to make us perfect, and thoroughly furnished unto every good work (2Ti 3:17). *God's Word* does not need to be supplemented with problems to accomplish its work.

A believer should not suffer:

1. With sin (*Matthew 1:21;; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Romans 1:21-32; Galatians 5:5:19-21;)*
2. With Sickness (*Isaiah 53, Matthew 8:16-17; John 10:10;; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24).*
3. With Failure in business or poverty (*Psalm 1:3-4; Psalm 23:1-6; Psalm 34:9-10;)*
4. With Bad habits (*Romans 6:14-23; Romans 8:1-13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17-21;*
5. With Lack of spiritual power (*Matthew 17:20; Mark 9:23; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:49;*
6. With Failure in prayer (*Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:22; Mark 9:23; Mark 11:22-24;*

Be proud if you suffer because of your faith and for Gospel.

1 Peter 1:7; 1 Peter 4:12-16 [15] But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. [16] Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Acts 9:16. Phil 1:29. 1 Pet 2:20. 3:14,17.

Many believers suffer because of sin, bad habits, lack of exercise, busy schedules, food habits, lack of discipline, improper planning, bad decisions etc. Then when they reap what they sow, they put it upon God, as God is tempting them and testing them. This is not so. The only suffering bible says a believer may be allowed to have is “**suffering for the Gospel**”. All others are from the Devil, men, us. Yet God is merciful, he will make a way to escape. He is a faithful High priest.

Dear brother and sister! With this knowledge, deal with the temptation. Be a victorious believer.

Be blessed.

Amen.

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If you need any clarifications kindly contact me in deeveekumar@yahoo.com Ph; 25572195, 99663557. Your comments are welcome.

Resources; Dakes bible commentary, Andrew Wommack bible commentary, Adam Clarke's Bible commentary, Vine's expository Dictionary of Bible words, Strong's Bible concordance, Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, The Power of Sin – by Bill Gillham, The Spiritual man – By Watchman nee, Webster's Dictionary, etc.. All bible quotes are from King James Version bible.