

HOW TO RESIST TEMPTATION

Matt. 4:1-10

1. The Lord allows us to be tempted, and He wants to bring good out of those experiences. Matt. 4:1; Gen.50:20; Job. 23:10; Jas. 1:2-4; 1 Cor. 10:12-13

tempted = peirazo = to make proof of, to test, i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, discipline, to entice or lure, as a fish from behind a rock

trials = peirasmos = a putting to proof (by experiment [of good], experience [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation); by impl., adversity

2. Temptation is not sin. It is an opportunity to stand and grow stronger in our faith. Matt. 4:1; 1 Pe. 5:8-10; Heb. 10:38; Rom. 4:18-22; Jas. 1:13-18; 1 Cor. 10:4

devil = diabolos = slanderous, accusing falsely

faith = pistis = a firm assurance or conviction, esp. reliance upon Christ for salvation; constancy in such profession. Believe = pisteuo = to trust in, fully rely upon, cling to

hope = elpis = a confident expectation

3. Through temptation, the devil wants us to doubt our inheritance in Christ. We must stand firm in who we are in Jesus. Matt. 4:2-3a; Rom. 8:1-4, 15-18; John 1:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17

4. We must refuse the temptation to doubt God's provision. Matt. 4:3-4; 6:25-33; Ps. 23:1; Neh. 9:15, 21; Gen. 22:8, 14; Rom. 8:31-32

kingdom = basileia = royalty, i.e. rule, or realm

freely give = charizomai = to grant as a favor, i.e. gratuitously, in kindness, pardon or rescue

5. We must refuse the temptation to doubt God's protection. Matt. 4:5-7; Ps. 91:1-16; 139:5; Prov. 18:10

name = shem = an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by impl., honor, authority, character, nature, ways

6. We must refuse the temptation to focus on and worship things of this world, seeking worldly status and affirmation. Matt. 4:8-10; Rom.8:6-13; 1 John 2:15-17; Gal. 5:16-17; 6:7-8

7. We overcome the enemy by putting our faith in what God says. Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; Rev. 12:10b-11; Job 23:11-12; Ps. 119:71; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 6:17

overcame = nikao = to conquer, prevail

8. We overcome the enemy by exercising our authority in Christ. Matt. 4:10; Rev. 12:11; Eph. 1:19-20; 2:6; Rom. 8:37; 1 John 5:4; 4:4; Heb. 4:15-16

overwhelmingly conquer = hupernikao = to vanquish beyond, i.e. gain a decisive victory

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. *When I face temptation, will I remember that part of resisting it is acknowledging that God allowed it for a divine purpose? Will I decide in advance to cooperate with what God is doing in my trials?*
2. *When I am tempted to sin, will I look at it as the devil trying to pull me away from Jesus? Where am I being given the opportunity to stand and grow stronger in my faith?*
3. *Will I proclaim my inheritance in Christ over my temptations? Will I rely on the spiritual power of the Holy Spirit as I face my temptations?*
4. *Will I thank God in advance for providing all I need in the place of my temptations? Will I remember His gift to me in Jesus and anticipate that He will deal with me in the same way in my trials?*
5. *Will I thank the Lord for His protection in my trials? Will I envision His hands upon me as I face each day?*
6. *In my temptations, will I make an effort to focus on and cultivate my spiritual life, versus running after worldly comforts and power? Will I worship the Lord in the midst of my trials?*
7. *What voice am I listening to in my temptations? What does God have to say about that specific situation? Will I allow the Holy Spirit to empower me to overcome by the Word of God?*
8. *Will I approach my temptations from a position of power and authority in Christ?*