

Spiritual WARFARE

TEMPTATION

1 TEMPTATION BIBLICALLY CLARIFIED (Genesis 4:6-7)

- ▶ Greek: πειράζω = peirázo
 - a) Put to the _____ b) _____
- ▶ Sources of πειράζω / peirázo
 - a) Trials / Testings: From _____ & the _____ of life
 - b) Temptations to do evil: From _____, the _____, and the _____ (our fallen nature)
- ▶ Distinguishing between Temptation & Sin (James 1:13-15)
- ▶ Question: So when is the best time to resist temptation?
- ▶ Answer: Right at the _____! _____ it in the _____ at the very _____!!
- ▶ Temptation Defined: Any form of enticement that leads us to _____ the _____ of _____
...temptation usually offers some _____
(Hebrews 11:25)
...temptation is an _____ for gratification that is triggered by some external stimulus

2 THE BASIS OF TEMPTATION

- ▶ _____ [Promise: Philippians 4:19]

3 THE PURPOSE OF TEMPTATION

- ▶ It's an attempt to _____ us to live a life _____ of God

4 THE NATURE / CHANNELS OF TEMPTATION (1 John 2:15-17; 1 Corinthians 10:13)

- ▶ To work through the _____ of the _____, the _____ of the _____ & the _____ of _____ to draw us away from the will of God, the Word of God & the worship of God
- ▶ Illustration: Temptation of Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:1-7) - Failure
- ▶ Illustration: Temptations of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11) - Success

5 THE POWER OF TEMPTATION

- ▶ Do we really know & believe that we are dead to sin and alive in Christ?
- ▶ How determined are we to live a righteous life, knowing that God is able and willing to meet all our needs in Christ?

6 THE WAY OF ESCAPE

- ① _____ in your _____ of the _____ of God (2 Timothy 2:15)
- ② Turn to _____ in the midst of the _____ (Hebrews 4:15-16)
- ③ Maintain a constant _____ of your _____ (2 Corinthians 10:5)

7 WHAT IF IT'S TOO LATE? WHAT IF I'VE ALREADY SINNED?

- ▶ The Way of Freedom: Sin ▶ _____ ▶ _____ (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16)



Prayer

Begin in prayer by asking the Lord for understanding and strength to recognize when temptation comes calling... and for the will and strength to overcome temptation.

My Story

1. In your estimation what kinds of temptations are each of the following groups most susceptible to? Why?
 - a. Teenagers
 - b. Young adults
 - c. Middle age adults
 - d. Senior citizens

Digging Deep

2. What point from Sunday's message gave you new insight into the subject of temptation?

3. **Read James 1:13-15.** What is the difference between God testing His people and being tempted? Why is this an important distinction? What are some common misunderstandings about this truth?

4. Explain how Satan, the world, and the flesh can each work (often together!) to get people to fall into sin. How are each different? Give an example of each:
 - Satan
 - World
 - Flesh

Digging Deeper

5. **Read Genesis 3:1-7 & Matthew 4:1-11.** How did Eve respond to Satan compared to Jesus? What was the result of each encounter?

6. In reviewing Matthew 4:1-11, how does Jesus (who was fully human and was tempted like we are) defend Himself against temptation from Satan? What practical steps can you take to implement this strategy in your spiritual warfare?

7. Why is it important to resist temptation URGENTLY and IMMEDIATELY rather than flirting with the idea for some time? How well do you do this for your strongest temptations? Are you willing to ask for prayer support from a group member?

8. **Read 1 John 2:15-17.** How does this passage help frame our relationship with temptation verses obedience to God?

Digging Even Deeper

9. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.** How is this verse an encouragement when wrestling with temptation? Will you consider memorizing it along with our theme verse James 4:7?

Taking It Home

10. **Read Proverbs 28:13 & James 5:16.** How do these verses encourage us toward accountability and transparency when we fall into sin? Do you have someone you can ask to help you be more spiritually accountable?

Praying Together

Pray together that we may each be strengthened by the Spirit as we seek escape routes away from the temptations of our flesh, the world and the enemy as we run toward the love of our Savior.