

Trials, Tests or Temptations

James 1:2-3, 12-15

God allows trials and tests, but never temptations

James 1:2-3

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

James 1:13

“Let no man say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”

In contrast, Satan uses temptations, trials or tests to cause us to doubt or forget God

James 1:14-15

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

Satan is after the mind and the will!

Our Mind

Satan uses the following three things to deceive us and can only tempt us in these three ways:

1 John 2:16

“For all that is in the world—

the lust of the flesh,

the lust of the eyes,

and the pride of life—

is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Our Will

Satan is like a trapper who uses many kinds of traps.

All of these traps are designed

to help us forget God and His Word or focus on what God forbids.

Satan is like a trapper who gives no warning when he sets up his traps.

Step 1. We see the trap

Step 2. Our curiosity is aroused by the trap

Step 3. Sin occurs when we yield (are enticed) by the trap

Step 4. Sin results in tragic consequences

ETERNAL DEATH

Romans 6:23; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 20:15

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Our Will (continued)

These are probably some of the most common traps
in Satan's efforts to help us forget God

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a. worldly success

“Soul you have many goods laid up for many years” - Luke 12:16-21
What profit is there if you gain the whole world..? - Mark 8:36-37

b. envy (wanting what someone else has) - James 3:14-16

Saul - 1 Samuel 18:5-12

Ahab - 1 Kings 21:1-16

c. desire to get even

Esau - Genesis 27:41; Hebrews 12:14-17

Absalom - 2 Samuel 13:22, 32

d. fear of what others think or say

Peter - Matthew 26:69-75

love the praise of men more than the praise of God - John 12:42-43

e. love of the world or things in it (riches, pleasures or cares)

Judas Iscariot - John 12:4-6

Demas - 2 Timothy 4:10

f. pride, power or control

the chief priests - do whatever is expedient to hold on to power - John 11:47-53

Diotrephes - 3 John 9-10

h. sexual desire (any sexual relationship outside of marriage)

Potiphar's wife - Genesis 39:1-20

Galatians 5:19-21; Hosea 4:11

h. doubting God or His Word, or focusing on what God forbids

Adam and Eve - Genesis 3:1-7

Israel in the wilderness - Deuteronomy 1:26-36

Satan is the deceiver.

He will use anything to cause us to forget God and His Word.

Satan fears one thing that God has done.

“What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:9-11

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Practical Ways to Deal With Temptation

1. Remind yourself that the final pain quickly erases the passing pleasures of sin
Hebrews 11:24-26

2. Obey God rather than practice sin - Romans 6:11-13
Focus on progress - unconfessed sin has consequences - Psalm 32:3-5
We fail, but we confess to Christ our Lord - 1 John 1:9-2:2
God forgives when there is a broken and contrite heart - Psalm 51:1-17

3. Use the Scriptures against the common traps of Satan (see below) - Matthew 4:1-11

4. Control your thought life by memorizing the Word of God
Galatians 6:7-10; Philippians 4:4-9; Romans 6:11-13; 1 Corinthians 6:7-9, 10:12-13

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With my whole heart have I sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:9-11

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a. worldly success - “If the Lord wills...” - James 4:13-16

b. envy - put on the Lord Jesus Christ - Romans 13:13-14; James 3:17-18
love does not envy - 1 Corinthians 13:4

c. desire to get even - 1 Peter 3:8-12; Genesis 50:15-21
the Lord will take vengeance in His time - Romans 12:17-21

d. fear of what others think or say - Psalm 111:10
God will reward you - Colossians 3:23-24
Peter and the other apostles - Acts 5:29

e. love of the world - Matthew 6:19-21; 1 John 2:15-17
flee from these things - 1 Timothy 6:6-11

f. pride, power or control
become a servant to others - Mark 10:42-45
Paul - 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; 2 Timothy 4:6-8

g. sexual desire - flee youthful lusts - Job 31:1, 9-12
Joseph - all sin is against God - Genesis 39:7-12 esp. v.9

h. doubting God or His Word, or focusing on what God forbids
trust in the Lord with all your heart - Proverbs 3:5-6
meditate and obey - Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

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