

Good News From Chardon

April 25, 2021

Issue 17

Recognizing and Overcoming Temptation

By Brian Mitchell

Is it possible to recognize temptation and overcome it before it overcomes us? The answer is yes, but there are some important principles we must understand. A man was on a diet and he was struggling. He had to go downtown and as he started out, he remembered that his route would take him by his favorite doughnut shop. As he got closer, he thought that a cup of coffee would hit the spot; what could that hurt right? Then he remembered his diet and that's when he prayed; "Lord, if You want me to stop for a doughnut and coffee, let there be a parking place right in front of the shop."

"Sure enough, I found a parking place right in front—on my seventh time around the block!" He didn't really want the Lord's help in overcoming temptation, he wanted permission. As Robert Orben once said, "Most people want to be delivered from temptation, but many would still like it to keep in touch" (Reader's Digest [8/86], p. 35). If one really wants to overcome the temptation to sin the first place to start is to make sure that you are not part of the problem. You must make sure that you are not the one that is placing the enticement in your path.

As we consider the subject of temptation, especially as it relates to sin, we must second come to understand that temptation is inevitable. James says, "blessed is the man who endures temptation" and "let no one say when he is tempted" (Jm.1:12-13). James leaves no question that temptation's assault will come for us all. Just as he does in dealing with trials in general, James here says, "When tempted..." not "If tempted." Just like death and taxes, trials and temptations are inevitable in this life. We will never be without temptation in life even though the more we mature in our faith the less common they may be.

And thus the second key to overcoming temptation is the acknowledgment that we are all susceptible to it. Remember Peter—"Lord, even if I must die, I will never deny you." What did he do—he denied Jesus 3 times. The Apostle Paul warns the Corinthians to "let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor.10:12). Peter thought he could stand up under any temptation to deny Jesus and thus because he did not think he could fall, he did. No one is above the powers of temptation and it is our acknowledgment of that fact that actually makes them easier to overcome.

The third key to overcoming temptation is to realize and acknowledge their true source. According to James, "each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed" (Jm.1:14). James teaches us that it is our own sinful desires that lay the groundwork for temptation. James does not here mention the role of the devil in man's temptations. That is not to say that the enemy does not play a role in temptation but that James wants us to realize and acknowledge our role in them.

Temptation requires two essential parts—desire + temptation. While someone or something may place an enticement to sin in our path, if there is no desire there is no temptation. If you take someone who has never done drugs in their life and has no desire to do so and place a pound of cocaine in front of them there would be no temptation because there is no desire. And so the point is simple, the 3rd key to overcoming temptation is to rid ourselves of our sinful desires by bringing all of our desires into line with God's will for our lives.

Temptations to sin affect us all but that does not excuse our sins. Why? Because the Bible says that with God's help we can both recognize and overcome any temptation that comes our way (1 Cor.10:13).

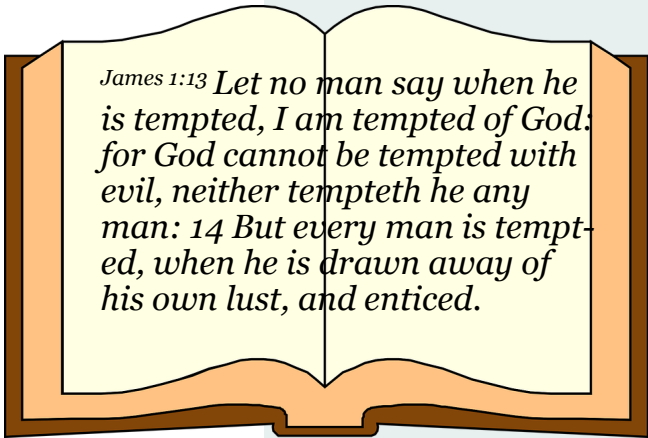
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Church of Christ

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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: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Dale

Opening Hymn:

53—Purer In Heart

Opening Prayer: Larry Hymn:

84—Have Thine Own Way

Scripture Reading: Ray James 1:12-20

Hymn:

301—He Loved Me So!

Lord's Supper: Tom

Hymn:

111—Yield Not to Temptation

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

98—I Surrender All

Closing Hymn:

114—I Want To Be A Worker

Closing Prayer: Mark

PRAYER LIST

*Nina had another procedure on her back last week.
 *Bonnie and her family .
 *Margaret and Albert.
 *Wanda and her family.
 *Kathy and her friends.
 *Zarna's family and friends
 *Larry and Ruth.
 *Pat and Ron and their daughters.
 *Juanita's sister Betty and the rest of her family.
 *Mary and her family.
 *Robert and Sara and their children.
 *Ray and Barbara
 *Dale and his family.
 *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
 *Myron & Carole and their family.
 *Mark and his family .



CALENDAR

Apr. 25—Worship 11 am
 Speaker: Mark
 Apr. 25—Bible Study 6pm
 on-line with
 Dale
 Apr. 27—(b.) Sandy
 Apr. 27—(a.) Tim & Tami
 Apr. 30—(b.) Breana
 May 2—Worship 11 am.
 Speaker: Mark
 May 2—Bible Study 6 pm
 on-line with Dale
 May 8—(b.) Lisa Marie
 May 14—(a.) Albert &
 Margaret
 May 19—(b.) Tami

Loving God Under Trials

James 1:12-20

Above	approved	beloved	Blessed
Brethren	brings	brought	comes
Creatures	crown	death	deceived
Endures	every	Father	forth
Gives	grown	lights	mightperfect
Produce	promised	receive	shadow
Speak	swift	temptation	there
Those	truth	turning	variation
Which	whom	wrath	

S S C L V E T N O O N E D D S A Y W
 H G E R E A N E V O B A T E H E I S
 T E N M E M R P T Y E E H S A D I T
 A M T I O A E I R H C M G S P T T C
 E D B Y R C T E A U T S U E G O H E
 T H O S E B V U D T P A O L D F O F
 N W O R G E W O R E I D R B R G O R
 S T H G I L R H A E E O B W D C A E
 H T U R T P N K I S S N N W O R C P
 D E V O L E B O I C D N T B E T W E
 F T E M P T T M E E H E D B N F O Y
 E A V F H I O L V G N R O R D I D D
 T O T G O R E O S I H H E E U W A H
 I H I H P R R M M V S T E C R S H L
 F M E T E P T O D E C E I V E D S E
 M P T R P R H H A S N R Y O S I N E
 T I P A E W F M I B T B C G Q M V S
 N O I T A T P M E T G N I N R U T E

Hidden Message:

_____, "_____"
 _____, _____
 _____.

**We lie loudest when
 we lie to ourselves.**

SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom)

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Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com

Follow us on FaceBook

Answer to Puzzle: Let no one say when he
 is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God
 cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He
 Himself tempt anyone.