

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION.

[Christian Fellowship at Bucklands Beach - 4/9/94 – EKB]

1. Jesus taught us to pray, **“Lead us not into temptation,”** *Mat 6:13*, as part of the Lord’s prayer.
2. Immediately before this we have prayed for the forgiveness of our sins, and so now it follows on to pray and ask God to keep us from temptation.
3. The word **“temptation”** has two major meanings in Scripture. (Gk-peirasmos)
 - a. Firstly we probably think of “temptation” as being drawn towards sin.
 - Pro 1:10f* “If sinners entice you, do not consent ... do not walk in the way with them.”
 - Gen 3:1-6* Satan tempted Eve by saying, “You shall not surely die, for God knows that in the day you eat thereof your eyes shall be opened and you shall be equal to God knowing good and evil.”
 - Ac 5:3* Peter said to Ananias. “Why has satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?”
Gen 12:19, 1K 13:18, 1Thes 3:5, 1Tim 6:9, Lk 4:13,8:13.
 - Jam 1:13-15* When we are tempted we are not being tempted by God. Each one of us is tempted when we are drawn away from God by our own desires and enticed to sin.

Within each one of us there are the desires of the spirit and the desires of the flesh. In the reborn spirit, the place where God the Holy Spirit dwells within the believer, we love God and delight to do His will, *Rom7:22*. But in the soul and body there are the desires of the “flesh”, of the old sinful nature of self, which desire things contrary to God’s will, *Gal 5:16,17, Rom 8:5-8*. It is these desires of the “flesh” which are the objects of temptation.

Our reborn spirit operates in the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, *Rom 8:2*, which is the more powerful law, and as we walk in the Spirit we are set free from the law of sin and death which operates in our old carnal, fleshly nature.

Temptation may seek to entice us into violence, hate, bitterness, revenge, unforgiveness, anger, lust, greed, pride, fear, doubt, cheating, swearing, lying, stealing and many more. It is not sin to be tempted, *Heb 4:15*.

- b. Secondly the word **“temptation”** (peirasmos) may mean to be tested, tried and proved so that we may be approved before God.
This is the way “temptation” is viewed in *Jam 1:12, Jam 1:2-4*. If we endure temptation (peirasmos) and overcome it by faith in God’s Word, then we have been “proved” and will receive the crown of life, *Jam 1:12*.

Also we are to count it all joy when we fall into various trials, (peirasmos), knowing that the trying of our faith produces patience and full maturity, *Jam 1:2-4*.

See also *IPet 1:5-7*. In v6 the word “trials” is again “peirasmos,” which, if we endure and overcome will result in God’s approval at Christ’s Coming.

Also: *1Pet 4:12,13, Lk 22:28, Ac 20:19, Mat 4:1-11, Gen 22:1,2.*

4. God's objective is for us to overcome temptation, *Mat 26:41, Lk 22:40,46.*
5. Now consider *1Cor 10:13* which is a verse to memorise. Temptations that we experience are common to all. God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to stand. He will make a way of escape for us, a way of escape from falling into sin, so that we can stand up under the temptation in faith, in obedience to God, and overcome it.
6. Please note that the way of escape is not from the temptation but from falling into sin and disobedience.
7. God's escape route is:
 - a. To be watchful, alert, and act early in saying, "NO!" when temptation comes, *Pro 1:10.* Jesus said, "Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation," *Mat 26:41.* Say, "NO! in Jesus' Name" and resist the devil, *1Pet 5:8,9.*
 - b. Also pray and call on the Name of the Lord, "Jesus save me!" *Rom 10:13, Heb 4:16, Ps 34:6,15,17, Ps 50:15, Lk 21:36.* Claim the Blood of Jesus. *Rev 12:11, Col 1:14, Heb 13:12.*
 - c. Keep speaking God's Word of truth in faith and authority. His truth in our heart and mouth is our shield of faith that quenches the fiery darts of satan, *Eph 6:16.* God's truth is a shield, *Ps 91:4.* Jesus said, "it is written" to defeat satan's temptations, *Mat 4:4,7,10.* This is the way we keep looking unto Jesus, and as we do He will pluck our feet out of the net, snare and trap, *Ps 25:15.*
 - d. Keep filled with God's Spirit and His Word, *Eph 5:18,19, Col 3:16,17.*
 - e. Pray *Mat 6:13.*
 - f. Flee from temptations to lust, *2Tim 2:22, 1Cor 6:18.*
 - g. Each day submit your will to God and pray for His grace to obey, *Lk 9:23.* "Lord enable us to deny self will and to take up our cross and follow You today in Jesus' Name. Amen!"