

# DEALING WITH TEMPTATION

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Dr. Kenneth Jones



# Dealing With Temptation

## Part Two

### Rebellion, Corruption, and Redemption

# The Golden Calf



Exodus 32:7: Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have **corrupted themselves**."

# Review Points

- Temptation is about submission to Influence that usually preys on our fleshly, carnal nature to draw us away from the Spirit's influence
- Temptation is more than making you do evil. It's about getting you to change your desired or divine course, your mind, belief, or direction
- If there is never a command, never something forbidden, then there can never be choice; and God wants our love and obedience to Him to be the love and obedience of *choice*.
- Temptation can often lead to Rebellion towards God or Rejection of His Word

# Review Points .... Cont'd

- Yielding to temptation can block our inheritance as Sons of God by enslaving us to sin (Galatians 5:16,17; Romans 8:5-8)
  - Satan cannot force us to sin, but he can entice us as he appeals to our sin tendencies (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life)
- Yielding to Temptation leads us to entertain thoughts with our mind.
  - Our imagination is a powerful tool used for us or against us
- Temptations test our faith (James 1:13) to either change our course, our direction or our minds

# Exodus 32

- The Children of Israel were tempted to change direction and return to bondage
- **We do not know what has become of him!** Our ignorance should make us turn to, and rely on, God - not the flesh.
  - When you don't know – Wait
  - Ignorance is no Excuse for Rebellion
- As they were tempted to turn back a sinful impulse also challenged the people – the golden calf

# God Measures Us

- This story is a wonderful lesson as it concerns spiritual maturity:
  - **How do we handle God's delays?**
    - Do we drift off into sin; do we give up with a resignation to fate instead of a personal God?
    - Or do we persevere with a living faith in the living God?
- Keep in mind: Just because you are ignoring God doesn't mean that God is ignoring you
- The Real You is the Person on display when you are in the midst of a trial or under temptation

# Do things happen because.....

- This issue has been plaguing mankind since the story of Job
- Why are we tempted? Why do we undergo trials and tribulations? (persecution, calamity, financial hardships, sickness, etc.)
- What kind of attitude or behavior are we to exemplify in the midst of trials?
- What do you mean, “Count it all Joy?” (James 1:2)

# **Trials, Tempting, Tribulations, Testing**

- **They develop us and strengthen us in the area of faith, patience, and trust**
- **Trials are inevitable – We go through things because**
  - We have an adversary who steals, kills, and destroys
  - Satan wants your faith – He wants you to change your course
  - Some trials are self –induced - results of decisions, rebellion, lack of wisdom, or lack of resources
  - Some are brought on through curses, giving access to spiritual entities (demonic)
  - Most Importantly – We go through trials as a test of our commitment and dependency upon God

# Walking Away From Sin's Influence



# Dealing with Temptation to Sin

“A man’s disposition on the inside, i.e. what he possesses in his personality, determines what he is tempted by on the outside.” (Oswald Chambers)

- David Prayed: *Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice deeds of wickedness With men who do iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies. (Psalms 141:4)*
- This is part of the pattern of prayer that Jesus commanded us to pray after in Matthew, chapter six that God would not allow one to be tempted beyond what one can bear to the point of turning back or dishonoring the truth of God’s Word

# Deliver us from Evil

It is said in the MISHNA, that Rabbi Judah was wont to pray thus: "Let it be thy good pleasure to deliver us from impudent men, and from impudence: from an evil man and an evil chance; from an evil affection, an evil companion, and an evil neighbour: from Satan the destroyer, from a hard judgment, and a hard adversary."

(Adam's Clark Commentary)

**Note: Impudence means "cocky;" self assertive; un-yielding to God's Word and authority; one proclaiming to be God's children but go on in life without fulfilling God's commands**

# Deliver us from Evil

- Many of us do not guard our heart and spirit against temptation much less ask God to deliver us from it.
- **One of the best ways of dealing with temptation to sin is to hate to sin itself and what it does as it relates to your relationship to God.**
  - Joseph resisted Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39) because he valued God's blessings and honored his position
- David's fear in Psalms 141 is that he would not be tempted to dishonor the truth, leading to apostasy

# Tempted to Rebel

- Man does not have a sin nature problem, he has a rebellion problem
- To say you have a Sin problem or nature gives us a way out as if we are held bondage and out of control
- However, it is through man's rebellious nature that he is corrupted
- Through the New Birth, we have the ability to overcome the influence of Sin
- Sin comes when we reject God's plan and intent for us to fulfill our own desire

# Quotable

- Watchman Nee – “Sin is a matter of conduct; it is easy to be forgiven of sin. But rebellion is a matter of principle; it is not so easy to be forgiven of rebellion.”

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It is not that I keep or break God’s laws, but it is my basic core attitude. The opposite of lawlessness is not rule-keeping, it is submission.

Rebellion is about our desire to keep the control. I don’t want to submit. Why? Because I don’t want to, that’s why! When I operate from a principle of rebellion, I hate God (That’s why rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft).

Even if I conform to all the rules, even if I practice all the religious requirements, I can still be in rebellion. I can still wish that life were going according to my plan.

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- Skip Moen, Ph.D “Spiritual Reformation, Vol 1: Reclaiming the Foundations of God’s Word.” Xulon Press. 2008. P. 126

# Departing From the Truth

- There are some churches today who value “relative” truth over absolute truth
  - Relative Truth – “I Feel therefore I Believe” (i.e. I know homosexuality is a sin, but I feel that God does want me to be happy, so it must be alright)
  - Absolute Truth: binding authority; infallible truth; meaning that there are principles stated by God in the Bible that reflects truly who He says He is and what He desires for us

**Without absolute truth there is no real temptation**

# Temptation is Measured

- Temptation is measured from our departure from a standard, requirement, or principle we know to be true
- God desires that we embrace His way and depend upon Him and not submit to our fleshly inclinations, demonic urgings, or worldly influences
- **It's called the great exchange – When Tempted, what do you choose?**
  - Fear or Faith
  - Sorrow or Joy
  - Lust or Love
  - Lying or Honesty
  - Worldly gain – eternal riches

# Mechanism of Temptation

**James 1:14 (Amp): But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions).**

- **Drawn Away** - *beyond* the prescribed limits of indulgence, and in the pursuit of objects that are forbidden. (*Most sins are the over indulgence or moral depravity of an act that may be accepted by God*)
- **Enticed and Baited**- Fish are dragged from the water because they saw the bait, but not the hook
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# Overcoming Temptation

- Pray for Help (Matthew 26:41) – “Watch and Pray”
- You are not Alone
- Get out of the Zone – If this place makes you weak, then get away from that place – Flee
- Look for the way out – God will provide a way of escape (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:3)
- Control your thoughts – Cast down imaginations (2 Cor 10:4)
  - Correct the lies of the devil with the truth
  - Realize the origin of the thoughts
  - Work to dislodge them from your minds
- Maintain spiritual disciplines – Prayer, Word, Worship, Fasting, and Praise

# Resisting Temptation

- **R** – Read Your Word – Know Your Options
- **E** – Encourage Yourself to do Well
- **S**- Strengthen Your Inner Man through prayer, meditation, and praise
- **I** – Involve yourself with things that produces life: fellowship,
- **S**- Stand Firm on the Word of God
- **T** – Trust that God’s way is Best

# Remember

- **The Word of God is a better option!**
- **Many people not even tempted because they don't know of any other option than that of the world.**
- **We are tempted when we allow ourselves to be drawn away from what has been promised to us**
- **Remember many of the things we are tempted with have a short life expectancy**
- **When Temptation Comes – Stay on Course!**