



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 5

### Dealing with Sin and Temptation

Temptation is not sin, if it was to be defined as sin then Jesus could not be described as sinless because He was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11) and we know that He is the only person who lived a sinless life (2 Corinthians 5:21). Temptation is the solicitation to sin or to be given the opportunity to sin. One minister said it this way, "It is not sin to have a bird (temptation) fly over your head, it is sin if you allow it to make a nest in your hair."

According to 1 Corinthians 10:13, will you ever be presented with a temptation that others have not encountered?

Yes     No

What is God's promise to us concerning temptation?

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#### **Temptation will have one of two results in your life.**

One result is obvious; **you may give in to it.** It then becomes sin and as we learned in our first lesson the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). We also learned that Jesus paid the price for our sin and according to 1 John 1:9 He will forgive us when we ask Him. Some may interpret this as a freedom to sin, because God will always forgive.

In 1 John 1:5-9 we are encouraged to walk in the light and not in the darkness, because those who walk in darkness cannot have:

\_\_\_\_\_ with God.

Read 1 John 3:8-9. What do these verses say about someone who commits sin?

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What do these verses say about those begotten of God?

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The word "committeth" or "doeth" in these verses, as written in the original language of Greek, is referring to ongoing action; a better translation would be the word "practice". These verses are referring to continuing in sin.

Romans 5:19 – 6:2 addresses the issue of sin and grace. Does God’s grace give us freedom to choose sin knowing that we can ask forgiveness later?

Yes     No

Read Galatians 6:7-9. If someone sows something sinful what will they reap?

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Another way of looking at this is that there are consequences of sin. God will forgive but we still reap the consequences. An example of this is if a man were to rob a bank, God would forgive him, but he will still have to pay his debt to society by spending some time in jail and or paying a fine.

One thing we need to remember about sowing and reaping is that they take place in different seasons. After sowing, during the time of waiting, the devil will lie to us saying that the reaping will not take place. This can be if we sowed something good or evil. People think that they are getting away with sin because they don’t reap instant consequences, or that all the good they do amounts to nothing, but be assured, we will always reap what we have sowed.

We now understand that although God forgives, choosing to continue in sin is not a wise choice. The good news is that when facing temptation God has already given us the victory to not give in to it.

According to 1 Corinthians 15:57 and 2 Corinthians 2:14 through whom do we receive the victory?

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Philippians 4:13 says that Christ gives us what?

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What can you do through Jesus Christ?

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Each one of us has weakness in our life. A lot of the time the temptations we face are in those areas. God is speaking to Paul in the first part of 2 Corinthians 12:9. What does God say about our weaknesses?

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Knowing this, how does Paul view his own weaknesses?

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**This leads us to the second result that temptation can have in your life.**

**Temptation can make you stronger.**

Read James 1:2-4. What should be our response when we encounter temptations?

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According to these verses what is the result of enduring or overcoming temptations?

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Another reward of enduring temptation is found in verse 12 of James 1. What is the reward listed there?

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Now, read the following verses; James 1:13-15. Does God tempt us? \_\_\_\_\_

What is it that causes us to be tempted?

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According to Galatians 5:16-18 how do we not fulfill the lusts of the flesh?

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Read Romans 8:1-2. What is the result of walking in the Spirit?

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What sets us free from the law of sin and death?

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To know if you are walking in the Spirit or walking in the flesh, look at the works or fruit of your life. Galatians 5:19-25 tells us what the works of the flesh are and what the fruit of the Spirit is.

In verse 24 what do those who are Christ's do?

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Read Romans 6:6-14. The first key to overcoming sin and temptation can be found in verse 11, what is it?

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Think about this. Would a dead man be tempted to steal, lust, lie, or hate? No! A dead man is dead, and no is longer affected by his surroundings.

In 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 we find another important key in overcoming sin and temptation. Temptation and sin first come to us in our thoughts. What are we to do with our thoughts?

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The words "casting down imaginations" can be demonstrated by what a person does when they find a spider or other kind of insect climbing somewhere on their body. That person does not sit and contemplate the intruder, wondering what should be done. Instead, they perform an immediate action of flinging the spider or insect away. The same thing should be done with a bad thought. Don't contemplate it – immediately fling it away.

When Jesus was on earth he also dealt with temptation. In Matthew 4:1-11 we find an account of Jesus being tempted by the devil. Each time the devil presented him with a temptation what did he quote to fight the temptation?

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Ephesians 5:25-26 is comparing a marriage relationship to that of Christ with the church. Verse 26 says that Christ washes the church with what?

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Not only should we fling a bad thought away, we need to replace it with the truth of God's word to remain free of the bad thought. Philippians 4:8 gives us a list of what we should think on. What should we think on?

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In the story of Jesus being tempted by the devil, notice that he did not need to find the scrolls of the written word, the word was already in his heart. It is important that we read the Bible daily, hide it in our hearts, so that we will be ready to face the temptations we encounter. When facing a temptation speaking the word out loud will help to change your thoughts. We can't speak something out loud and think something else.

At times bad thoughts come to us by what we allow ourselves to see. In Job 31:1 and Psalm 101:3 Job and David had strict rules with what they allowed themselves to look upon. If we follow their example, it will help us to not need to fight off some temptations.

The Bible gives us instruction on what we are to do with youthful lusts. It doesn't say to try to resist them, or to put ourselves into a situation that could cause temptation. Instead what does 2 Timothy 2:22 tell us to do?

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If you have a struggle with drugs or alcohol you should not hang around where those things are available. If you struggle with a certain sin, don't put yourself in the situation where that sin could take place.

To sum up this lesson, we all face temptations. We have the choice of how we respond to them. Thankfully we don't face them in our own power. Through Jesus Christ we can win the battle.

Recommended Reading:

Battlefield of the Mind by Joyce Meyer  
Joyce Meyer Ministries  
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1-800-727-9673  
[www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

