

Dealing With Temptations

(Part 2)

James 1:2-4

1

Help With Temptation

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23

- ▶ Attitudes control conduct. Luke 6:45; cf. Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21-23
 - No external police can do this!
- ▶ Focus on things above. Colossians 3:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:1-3
 - Happiness not dependant upon externals.
- ▶ "Sow a thought and reap the deed; Sow a deed and reap a habit; sow a habit and reap the consequences." (author unknown)

2

Help With Temptation

Worship God regularly in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

- ▶ *"For **a day** in thy courts is better than **a thousand**. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."* (Psalms 84:10)
 - Emphasis not on duration, but intensity of joy.
 - The sincerity of your worship makes all the difference. John 4:24; Psalms 122:1
 - Satisfaction to the soul. cf. Hebrews 10:24-25
 - More to this than most realize!

3

Help With Temptation

Watch the company you keep. Proverbs 1:10 "My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not."

Be careful of peer pressure. cf. Psalms 1:1

- ▶ Can't choose your relatives, but you can choose your friends. cf. 1 Corinthians 15:33
- ▶ *Proverbs 13:20 "He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed." NKJV (cf. Proverbs 1:7; 15:5); cf. Romans 13:13-14*
- ▶ NOTE: "If you don't court a child of the devil, you won't have trouble with your father-in-law."

4

Help With Temptation

- ▶ *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41*

- Possible to be overtaken in sin, but NOT WITHOUT YOUR CHOICE. cf. Matthew 6:13; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Limit your opportunities.

- ▶ *Watch and resist. 1 Peter 5:8; cf. James 4:7*

5

Help With Temptation

Ask the right questions.

- ▶ Does the Bible prohibit this activity? Galatians 5:19ff
- ▶ Would I want to be doing this when the Lord comes? 2 Peter 3:10
- ▶ Will this destroy my ability to think soberly? Romans 12:3; Titus 2:2ff
- ▶ Will this cause others to stumble? Matthew 18:6-7; 1 Corinthians 8
- ▶ Have my parents forbidden it? Proverbs 15:5
- ▶ Does my conscience already question it? cf. Romans 14:23

6

Dealing With Temptations

James 1:12 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which (the Lord) promised to them that love him."

James 4:7 "Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

7