



Outer Growth - Temptation

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:2

Thought - Psalms 139:2

Eyes/Ears - Deuteronomy 29:4

Matter - Ecclesiastes 12:13, Psalms 64:5

Partner - Proverbs 29:24

Thinking - Proverbs 23:7

Attempt - Lamentations 3:40

Time - Luke 4:13

Incident - Deuteronomy 17:8 James 3:5

Oppositions - 1 Timothy 16:20

News - Proverbs 25:25

Temptation in the first edition gives an insight into what can occur if believers submit to the enemy's devices. However, the second one will show the full details of the process in Temptation Two.

Temptation is the lure of one's ability to draw or something that draws attention. Fifteen verses in the Bible contain this life-challenging word for everyone, especially believers who faithfully trust God and serve Him in Spirit and truth. Fourteen are found in the New Testament, while one is in the Old Testament.

The only verse in the Old Testament for believers talks about not hardening the heart. The situation with the children of Israel "tempted" God and "chided" Moses at Massah or Meribah in the wilderness, where

they received water out of the rock. Their descendants are warned not to follow the example of their forefathers. Temptation tends to tempt people to get angry: especially when the Israelites had better food services in Egypt than they had experienced now in the wilderness. Temptation can occur when we least expect it. The other verses profess in the New Testament include this undetermined word. The enemy uses this method to lead or enter people down a path they had no intention of going. The devil will use this method of deception to get some believers or unbelievers to submit. When the temptation comes, it can change a day from good to bad all depends on how we handle it.

Temptation is considered a joy. Nothing is planned by us when something arises, and we are not anticipating it. For believers, God blesses those who overcome such adversity. To remain steadfast in an overwhelming situation will take a dependency on God to give strength during those experiences. For some people, it is a matter of if, while believers, it is a subject of when.

Temptation comes to us in many different ways. The first is through our thoughts: the human experience of retrieving something that comes to our minds that may contaminate the heart. However, how does the formation of objects come into our inner being? They come through our senses which are our eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and touch or feel. Any one of these parts can influence wonder and affect our decision-making.

Temptation of Isaac is similar to that which overcame his father at the time and was known as Abram, and his wife Sarai, in Genesis twelve, verses eleven through thirteen. Isaac dwelt in Gerar in verse six, and in the following verse, "The men of the place" were struck with the appearance of Rebekah "because she was fair." Isaac allowed his eyes to influence his thoughts: seeing the men may have intimated to him, bringing a sense of fear about Rebekah being his sister rather than his wife.

Rebekah was at this time not less than thirty-five years married and had two sons roughly fifteen years old. She was still, however, in the prime of life, and her sons were probably engaged in pastoral and other field pursuits. Abimelech, King of the Philistines, saw Isaac with Rebekah and suspected it was his wife.

Abimelech encounters Isaac and questions him for answers as to why Isaac would fabricate the status of Rebekah. And Abimelech said, "What *is* this thou hast done unto us? One of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us." The thoughts Isaac had due to fear could have put his marriage in Jeopardy with Rebekah in not being truthful that she was his wife. The mistake was due to his thoughts which made the situation more dangerous than need be.

Temptation may cause our eyes and ears to put us in trouble. In today's society, there are many things we will come across with our eyes and ears, which could lead us down the wrong path if we are not careful. For believers, our focus should be on God and ask Him for guidance when a situation of potential Temptation arises unawares. The danger of the lure may occur when we are idling and not doing anything but taking it easy. Nothing preoccupied within us will tend to look for things on the outside to embark upon.

David and Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, samples what our eyes and ears could do when not focused on God and His agenda. In Second Samuel eleven, verse two, David rose from his couch and walked on the roof of his palace, in the cool of the day was the pleasantest part of an eastern house. This palace was on the height of Mount Zion and looked down upon the open courts of the other places in the lower city. In one of these, he saw a beautiful woman bathing. In the courts of the homes, it was common to have a basin of water, and the place was probably entirely concealed from every other point of observation than the roof of the palace from which no harm occurred.

However, the beginning of evil did occur when David's eyes and ears put him into action to pursue Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Temptation begins to loom, and David sends for her in verse three of Second Samuel eleven. At the same time, he hears whose wife she belongs to and gets the messengers for her to come to his place. Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, does not know why she must see the King: How could she know she was spotted by the King looking at her?

Temptation could be in the form of a matter. A problem occurs between people when one person is desirous to do something that is not right to gain control over the circumstance.

Rebekah, the beautiful wife of Isaac, did something not so-pretty within their family. In Genesis twenty-seven, in verses one to five, the mother overheard Isaac talking to Esau. The father instructs Esau to get him some venison and later make savory meat to receive a blessing. Rebekah hears and decides to overstep her boundaries by calling Jacob to know. Then informs him to go ahead and do what his older brother Esau is doing, and she will help make the food to give to Isaac.

Temptation may come from another influence, such as a friend, relative, co-worker, neighbor, or stranger. The danger here is the other person's mentality will not be like yours, and unknown what advice they might give. For believers, even though we claim to serve God, our approach to certain things will be different. Therefore, the results will not be similar either.

Rehoboam, in Second Chronicles ten, verse one, went to Shechem to become King. He was in the position to allow the people of Israel to advise and may consider any requests by the people.

However, to meet him was Jeroboam, the Son of Nebat, and his people came to offer recommendations to lighten the load, which was hard on the people. In verse four, they make their plea, and the reply from the King is to give him three days. Rehoboam took counsel of the older people and appeared to

be leaning in that direction in verses six and seven. However, the young men came and verses eight through fifteen erased the good gesture away with their approach.

Temptation will lead people in two ways: Moderate counsels are the wisest and best. Gentleness will do what violence will not do. Most people like good treatment. Good words cost only a little self-denial, yet they purchase great things. No more needs to ruin men than to leave them to their pride and passion.

Temptation will also come around in the way a person thinks. For as a person consider in their heart so it can be. The person is not what their mouth speaks or declares to be, but what is in their heart discovered by looks and actions, and by which they are to be judged, and not by only words. Our actions speak louder than words that come from the heart. What comes out from the inner being defiles the person.

Eve by example, did follow the instructions by God not to eat the tree of good and evil in verses two through three in Genesis three.

Temptation sets in when she hears the serpents reply in verses four and five. Eve's thinking of the statement in verse six with the eyes gazing, the attraction, and what the tree offers made her contemplate and succumb to the serpent's will. For believers, more thinking about what the world considers to be the lure to lose sight of what God's Word says. Must not allow humanistic wisdom to interfere with God's will.

Temptation will pressure us to attempt. The first seven letters in this word, with a bit of shuffling, create the word "attempt."

However, whether it is a coincidence or not, the motive from the enemy against the believers is for them to submit to his will and not God's way for our lives. To do something we would not plan in the first place. To sever our relationship with God and not find our way back.

Absalom made such an attempt and was the third son of King David by his wife, Maacah.

The bulk of the story of Absalom is in Second Samuel, chapters thirteen through nineteen: who had a strong influence on his

father's reign. During King David's conspiracy, Absalom began to undermine David's rule. He set himself up as a judge in Jerusalem and gave out promises of what he would do if he were King. After four years of this, he asked to go to Hebron, where he had secretly arranged to have himself proclaimed King.

Temptation will come unexpectedly, during any day, interrupting any situation. No one can determine the length of time when going through the experience or how many will occur at any given time. Believers will go through luring situations where they must depend upon God and His Word to carry them over or through it. Temptation manifests in the physical yet plans from the spiritual. The enemy, which is the devil, will use deception as a chief means to inflict on believers, especially if they are experiencing luring challenges.

Jesus, the Son of God, faced the "temptation in the wilderness," which occurs in Matthew four, verses one through eleven, and in Luke four, verses one to thirteen, respectively. However, even though these two portions of scripture are slightly different: The author was Matthew and Luke. At the beginning of verse, two of Matthew and the end of Luke in verse one: both mention the Son of God led by the Spirit: to face the tempter, the devil. Therefore if Jesus had to go through it, then believers too. However, Jesus had to go through it for forty days.

Temptation will pressure us to overreact during an incident. Whether personal, industrial, or social, the potential to lure us into wrongdoing is possible for anyone in these areas at any time. For believers, the devil will tempt the children of God to sin through incidents that have the potential to wreak havoc without them even realizing it. Most believers are conscious of the Ten Commandments, which is the law for us, but incidents involving things that no one knows how our reaction will be tempting when a situation arises.

Numbers twenty, verses one through thirteen, is about the water from the rock:

where the children of Israel entered the desert in Zin. Moses and Aaron were supposed to speak to the rock as commanded by God. Instead, Moses strikes the rock as he did back at Horeb in Exodus seventeen, verses one through seven.

Temptation appears to be the root cause of the disobedience of His servants Moses and Aaron. In verses three through five, the people began to murmur about the conditions of both leaders. The aggravation of the people may have initiated the lure of Moses not to carry out the command of God.

Temptation, at times, will form an opposition. The obstruction of those whose intentions are to help and do good: while opposers try to cause resistance and create a struggle. For believers, their faith should rise because actions and believing goes together. To please God, especially unselfishly, is thinking of others where the self gets no part. Loving the neighbor as ourselves speaks louder than words, for God is love. David and Goliath is an example of the intent of helping the people, but opposition arises to tempt the good one from not accomplishing it. In First Samuel, chapter seventeen begins with the Philistines' star warrior Goliath, with the rest of the army, gathered at Shocoh, which belongs to Judah, stationed between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. However, Saul and his men of Israelites were together in the valley of Elah. Now David heard the army men of Saul conversing as Goliath stood speaking in verse twenty-three. David openly inquires to them and receives a reply in verses twenty-six to twenty-seven, accordingly. Temptation looms for David as his brother Eliabverbally comes at him in verse twenty-eight, and his response is the following verse after that: trying to help and evil attempts to present itself.

Temptation may come in the challenge of news. The revelation of information to others regarding a matter can be an obstacle to overcome. Most importantly, the news representative presents it in a negative fashion and not in a truthful manner. The

carousel of people going from mouth to ear will differ from the initial information.

Temptation can make news bad because gossip is potentially contradictory and prediction, not positive.

Nehemiah left Persia for Jerusalem to be governor of Judah. His goal was to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah rebuilt the wall in fifty-two days, as in chapter six, verse fifteen, which is the name of this book in the Old Testament. The news that Sanballat heard about the activity of God's servant concerning the wall made him react in a way to complicate things for Nehemiah.

Examples are in chapter two, verse ten, verse nineteen, chapter four, verse one, verse seven, and chapter six, verses one to two, respectively. These situations indicate that Sanballat intended to stop the operation of the wall being built in Jerusalem as the news came to him.

Temptation is a means of drawing attention from the intentions of the person. This method is similar to persuasion, which results in deception. The devil's number one formula is to steer people away from God, salvation, love, and anything with godliness and righteousness. The enemy will use information, people, family, negative situations, problems, and social circles, to attack the mind, use personal matters, to tempt anyone to fail and bring them down: especially believers.