

**Keys To Victory When Facing Temptation**  
**Congregational Worksheet – Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

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This worksheet was created by Pastor Kincaid to help you complete and keep structured notes during the corresponding sermon. To fill in the blanks of this worksheet listen to the sermon from the date noted in the header of this worksheet. The sermon MP3 audio can be streamed or downloaded from the sermons page of the church website at <http://www.goshenfirstag.org/sermons.php> or a CD can be purchased (for \$0.50) from the church Media Ministry.

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Temptation is one of the single most significant subjects that a Christian can know about, and it is essential that anyone that is striving to live for God should have a thorough understanding of temptation, and how it effects our lives. So, this study is designed to give you a basic, but detailed outline of this very important topic.

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**\*The first thing that we have to understand when we are studying about temptation is the fact that Satan \_\_\_\_\_ us to sin.**

Satan's main objective is to have every human being live an unholy and wicked lifestyle that violates The Word of God.

That is his passion, his purpose, and his plan all wrapped up into one.

**\*And we have to understand that he wants us to sin for a \_\_\_\_\_.**

And he has three main purposes behind this...

1. Because sin \_\_\_\_\_ us from God.

When a person allows sin into their life, that sin then builds a wall of separation between them and God and makes it impossible for them to have the relationship with God that they need to have. *Read Eph. 2: 11-12.*

2. Because sin leads a person into \_\_\_\_\_ sin.

This principle has sadly been demonstrated time and time again...

For instance, how many times does a social drinker turn into a full blown alcoholic, or someone that tries marijuana turn to harder drugs, or an "innocent kiss" turn into full blown fornication?

3. Because sin always carries \_\_\_\_\_ with it.

It leaves you *bound* in this life, and it causes you to *burn* in the life to come.

**\*So it's clear that Satan wants us to sin because his ultimate goal for our lives is to \_\_\_\_\_ us.**

Notice what we are told in John 10:10 and 1 Peter 5:8.

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**Joh 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

**1Pe 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

We can never forget that Satan is obsessed with ruining our souls and he is consumed with seeing us damned to Hell.

**\*But the only way that Satan can accomplish his goal for ours lives is through \_\_\_\_\_.**

So we have to make sure that we understand *what* temptation is.

The word temptation means: To coax, to allure, to offer, to invite, to entice.

So temptation is where Satan tries to get a person to sin, by having that person partake of what he is offering them.

And the reason that he “entices” us is because he can not \_\_\_\_\_ us to sin, but we have to \_\_\_\_\_ partake of it.

**\*But why is temptation the only way that Satan can lead us to destruction?**

Well, there are two main reasons...

**#1. Because all sin has to have to \_\_\_\_\_ with the temptation to do it.**

The progression that leads to sin that is outlined perfectly in James 1: 14-15.

**Jas 1:14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

**Jas 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

**Jas 1:16** Do not err, my beloved brethren.

**\*Notice how this progression unfolds...**

1. First we are \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jas 1:14** But every man is tempted, *when* he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

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That means that the temptation process begins by Satan presenting something before us that will stir our sinful appetites.

2. Then it must be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jas 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived...

The word conceived means: To imagine, or to even “plan out”.

It’s speaking of a person not only being presented with a sin, but it is where that person starts to imagine partaking of that sin in their mind.

Sin is “conceived” by a person considering things like...

*“That looks good... What would it be like... How could I do it”.*

3. The next step is a person actually \_\_\_\_\_ of the temptation.

**Jas 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin...

This is the part of the progression that moves from a person thinking about the sin, to a person actually practicing the sin.

The obvious exception to this rule would of course be a person committing sins “in their mind”, such as... lust, hate, bitterness, grudges, envy, ect.

4. Then finally we see \_\_\_\_\_ of sin coming to pass, which is death. Meaning both physical and spiritual death.

**Jas 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

**#2. The second reason that temptation is the only way that Satan can lead us to destruction is because if you are a Christian, the devil simply can not do whatever he wants to do to you.**

*\*A perfect illustration of this is found in Job chapter one.*

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So if his goal to destroy you is going to be accomplished, two very specific things have to take place...

#1. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ his temptation to work.

Which happens by you accepting what he is offering into your life and then actually partaking of it.

Which means that in all actuality, when this happens, you are making the conscious decision to damn \_\_\_\_\_, the devil isn't doing it for you.

#2. \_\_\_\_\_ has to allow him to tempt you in the first place.

Notice what James 1:13 tells us...

**Jas 1:13** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, **neither tempteth he any man:**

Now, this shows us that God is never the one that tempts us to do evil, but in 1 Cor. 10:13, we also see that He doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ temptations from coming our way.

**1Co 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

\*However, there are is a very important principle found in this verse that we need to consider and can never forget...

Which is the fact that God will never allow Satan to tempt us with any temptation that He will not enable us to \_\_\_\_\_ and refrain from!!!

**1Co 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

**\*So what we have learned so far is that...**

1. Satan wants us to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. He wants us to sin for a \_\_\_\_\_.

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3. His overall goal is to \_\_\_\_\_ you.
  4. Temptation is the \_\_\_\_\_ way that he can accomplish this goal.
  5. But God has made \_\_\_\_\_ against it.
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**\*But now let's look at some verses that tell us a lot more about the subject of temptation.**

Notice what we are shown in Matt 4:1, where Jesus was tempted in the wilderness...

**Mat 4:1** Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Now, this verse is telling us very clearly that The Holy Spirit actually \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ into a situation where He would be tempted.

It doesn't say that The Holy Spirit was the one that tempted Him, it simply says that He lead him to that place and that He allowed it to take place.

**\*But once you see that this was allowed to happen, no doubt you find yourself asking the questions...**

- "Why did The Holy Spirit do that"?

- Or, "Why does God allow us to be tempted in the first place"?

And there are generally three answers to these questions.

**#1. Because temptation makes us \_\_\_\_\_.**

Notice what James 1:2-4 teaches us...

**Jas 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

**Jas 1:3** Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

**Jas 1:4** But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

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This is telling us that temptation produces \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

But what does patience have to do with us becoming stronger Christians?

Well, to answer that, we have to understand what the word patience in this verse actually means, because it is not talking about a person having the ability to “wait” like this word is commonly used today.

But the word patience in this text means: To be able to endure something without \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

This word is speaking of a person that has the ability to bear the “weight” of something, not someone simply having the ability to “wait” for something.

A perfect illustration of this would be an Olympic weight lifter that participates in the “clean and jerk” event. Which is where they lift a certain amount of weight over their head and then have to hold it there for a certain amount of time. The strength that it takes for them to withstand that weight is a perfect example of “patience”.

So if each time you are tempted it builds patience, that means that it also makes you stronger for the \_\_\_\_\_ that you have to face it.

**#2. Because temptation makes us \_\_\_\_\_.**

I once read of a military general that had to give some of the soldier’s that were under his command a very difficult assignment.

And as he arrived at the battlefield, he found three different groups of men, of which he needed to chose one group to give this difficult assignment.

The first group of soldiers had only arrived at their posts several days before his coming and because of their inexperience he said, “I can’t give this assignment to these men, because I *don’t know* if I can trust them”.

He then came to the second group of men, which had been on the front lines for about two months and had fought very bravely in several battles, but still the general said of them, “I can’t give this assignment to them either, because I

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only *think* I can trust them”.

And then he came to the last group of soldier’s which had been in the heat of battle since the beginning of the war, and had proved both their bravery and their ability time and time again. So the general said of those men,  
“I’ll give this assignment to them, because I *know* that I can trust them”.

Each time that we \_\_\_\_\_ temptation, it proves to God that we are faithful. Which causes Him to consider us to be \_\_\_\_\_,  
just like that military general did his seasoned soldier’s.

**#3. Because temptation causes us to \_\_\_\_\_.**

If a weightlifter is attempting to build his muscle mass, he must rely on the resistance of the weights he is lifting to cause his muscles to grow.

If he only curls q-tips or pop cans, his muscles will grow weaker, or at best remain the same. It is only when he puts himself under a load that his muscles will \_\_\_\_\_ and become stronger from the experience.

The same is true when it comes to a Christian’s spiritual life. If they are never put under a strain, such as hardships and temptation, they will never experience the resistance that is necessary for them to grow in their walk with Christ. And if they were to go through life without facing any type of adversity, they would only grow weaker, or at best stay the same, which is completely contrary to God’s desire for each of our lives, which is for us to constantly grow in our faith and become more and more like Him.

So it is easy to see that while Satan views temptation as a means to destroy us, God views it as a means to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

**\*Next, let’s also look at verses 2 and 3 of Matthew chapter 4...**

**Mat 4:2** And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward hungry.

**Mat 4:3** And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Because here we find two very important things to notice about \_\_\_\_\_ Satan came to tempt him.

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**#1. Satan came to tempt Jesus when He was \_\_\_\_\_.**

It is no coincidence that Satan came to tempt The Lord after He had been fasting for 40 days and 40 nights, especially when you consider what he was tempting Him with. Because it is very apparent that Satan was trying to take full advantage of how vulnerable Jesus could have been at that particular moment in time.

He didn't try to tempt Him with eating when He had a full stomach, but he came with this temptation when it would have been very easy for Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ to what Satan was offering.

And this shows us a very important thing to keep in mind, which is the fact that Satan is absolutely ruthless in his attacks, and he has absolutely no conscience about the way that he goes about attacking us.

He will come to us at our weakest \_\_\_\_\_ and he will try to take advantage of our weakest \_\_\_\_\_.

Satan will entice us with whatever he feels will work, regardless of how bad it wounds you. And he will come at some of the darkest times in your life.

**#2. Satan came to Jesus when he was \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus was all by Himself while He was out in the wilderness. Which is important to consider because that means that Satan came to tempt Him when He had no one to turn to for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or encouragement.

Again, showing how ruthless and \_\_\_\_\_ that Satan is concerning the time that he comes to attack a Christian's life.