

Temptation

- Opening Scripture: I Corinthians 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.”
- What is temptation?
 - Greek: a putting to proof (by experiment of good or experience of evil or by solicitation, discipline, or provocation); by implication, adversity
 - Greek (verb): to test objectively (endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline); assay, examine, go about, prove, try
 - dictionary: the act of enticement or allurement to do something often regarded as unwise, wrong, or immoral; the fact or state of being tempted, especially to evil; to attract, appeal strongly to, or invite; to put to the test in a venturesome way; to try or test (obsolete)
- Temptation as a test from God
 - Abraham’s love tested by God (Genesis 22:1-13)
 - trials intended to build up spiritually (James 1:2-4, I Peter 1:6-7)
 - promises for those who endure (James 1:12)
- Temptation as enticement to do evil
 - Jesus tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13)
 - tempted because of desire within you (I Timothy 6:9, James 1:14-15)
- What are some ways to fight temptation from the devil?
 - Jesus fought the devil with Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13)
 - watch and pray (Luke 22:39-46, Matthew 26:41, Mark 14:38)
 - avoid the appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22)
- Conclusions
 - trials and tribulations are common to everyone
 - it is our responsibility to endure and allow God to refine and bring us closer to Him in the process
 - also, the devil will present evil to anyone (he even tempted Jesus)
 - temptation becomes wrong when there is a desire within you for the evil
 - we can fight temptations through prayer and watchfulness
 - Christ, our example, will give us the strength to resist the devil (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15-16)