

Practical Christianity

Conquering Temptation

James 1.13-15

Walking Off The Edge - Four Steps To Sin:

1. The Courtship to sin- Drawn away (vs 14).
2. The Consent to sin - Enticed (vs 14).
3. The Conception of sin - Conceived (vs 15).
4. The Completion of sin - Death (vs 15).

James 4:7–8 - Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.
Cleanse your hands, ye sinners;
and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Conquering Temptation - What to do when I am tempted:

A. Recognize the temptation

1. [Understand your adversary's devices (2 Cor 2.11)]

*[2 Corinthians 2:11 **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us:** for we are not ignorant of his devices.]*

- a. [He is determined (Job 1.8-9; Zech 3.1; Luke 22.31)]

[Job 1:8-9 ⁸ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?]

[Our adversary is so determined that he will argue with God over you. He is referred to in Revelation 12:10 as the accuser of the brethren.]

*[Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, **and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.**]*

*[Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, **Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:**]*

[The devil is relentless in his pursuit of you.]

[He will tempt you and then tempt you again. He will try to trip you up. He will try to get you to turn away from our Lord. He will try to

deceive you with things you desire. He is determined and he will not give up.]

- b. **[He is a deceiver (2 Cor 11.14-15; Matt 13.39; Rev 12.9) – While the devil is referred to as a deceiver, he never presents himself to us as the deceiver that he is. Those he works through will often seem friendly, kind and compassionate, but they are the agents of our adversary if they seek to draw us away from the Word of God or the people of God.]**

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- A. Recognize The Temptation**
1. Understand your enemies
devices – The Devil
a. He is determined

[2 Corinthians 11:14-15 ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.]

[Notice that these deceiving agents of the devil are presented as the ministers of righteousness. They will be Bible carrying pastors in pulpits, Bible carrying Christians in church pews, but non-the-less they are deceivers.]

[In the Parable of the wheat and the tares we find these tares permeating the field of the Church. They are through and through the field. These tares look like the wheat plants until they bear their poisonous black fruit. Notice in,]

*[Matthew 13:39 **The enemy that sowed them is the devil;** the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.]*

[The tares were right in the midst of the field, just as these deceivers will be right in the midst of the Church.]

[Temptation will often be the result of some deceiver right in the midst of the Church. It will be brought by someone you hope and think you can trust.]

*[Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world;** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.]*

1 Pet 5.8

[Our adversary will deceive many, for his deceptions are not few nor rare. But his end is determined. His judgment is coming and coming soon.]

c. **[He wants to devour (1 Pet 5.8)]**

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

d. **[He is a destroyer (John 10.10)]**

*[John 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.]*

[Our adversary desires to destroy everything that is precious to our Lord. He wants to destroy your,]

- [Family]
- [Friendships]
- [Fellowships – Your Christian relationships, the Church]
- [Fidelity – Thereby destroying your witness and testimony]

Prov 14.12

2. **Understand your own tendencies** – We are tempted when we are drawn away by our own lusts.

a. **[We often assume we are in the right (Prov 14.12)]**

[Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.]

Jer 17.9

b. **[We often feel that our heart will lead us right (Jer 17.9)]**

[If it feels so right then how can it be wrong?]

[If God didn't want me to do it then why did He put such a strong desire in my heart?]

[Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?]

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A. Recognize The Temptation

1. Understand your enemies devices – The Devil
 - a. He is Determined
 - b. He is a Deceiver

c. [We tend to wander away from God (Psalm 119:10; Jer 14:10)]

[I just don't feel like reading my Bible right now.]

[I just don't feel like praying right now.]

[I just don't feel like going to Church all the time.]

*[Psalm 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: **O let me not wander from thy commandments.**]*

*[Jeremiah 14:10 Thus saith the LORD unto this people, **Thus have they loved to wander**, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.]*

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d. [We want to do it ourselves - Pride (Prov 11:2; 16:18)]

[I don't need some Church to tell me how to live my life.]

[I can take care of myself.]

[Proverbs 11:2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.]

[Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.]

[Illustration] - There once was a community of sorely burdened people who lived at the base of a high mountain. One day the mayor had a great idea. "Let's all carry our burdens to the top of the mountain," he said, "then we will lay them down and everyone can choose a burden to carry. Since, it is apparent that everyone else's burdens are lighter than your own." So, up the mountain they went, bearing their burdens to the top. When everyone was there they laid their burdens down and began to browse. Soon everyone had picked up a burden and started back down the mountain. Then suddenly the mayor realized, with amazement, that everyone was carrying their own burdens after all." You see, in God's

divine providence, He knows just which burdens we need for our current
Eph 6.11 circumstances and growth.]

3. Understand God's purpose for you.

- a. [God wants you to stand (Eph 6.11; Luke 21.36; Jude 1.24)]

[Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.]

[Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.]

[Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.]

- b. [God wants to deliver you (Psalm 34.7,17,19)]

[Psalm 34:7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.]

[Psalm 34:17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.]

[Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.]

1 Jn 2.11

- c. [God does not want you to sin (1 John 2.1; John 8.11; Rom 6.1-2; 1 Cor 15.34; Eph 4.26)]

[1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:]

[John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.]

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*[Romans 6:1-2 ¹ What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?** ² **God forbid.** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?]*

*[1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, **and sin not**; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.]*

*[Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, **and sin not**: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:]*

B. Reckon with the temptation.

1. [Deal with your disillusionment.]
2. [This temptation is common (1 Cor 10.13)]

[1 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.]

3. [God means even this for good (Rom 8.28)]

[Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.]

C. Resolve to stand with God.

1. [**Stand** (Eph 6.13) - Having done all.]

*[Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, **and having done all, to stand.**]*

2. [**Stay** (Isa 40.31) - Wait on the Lord.]

[Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.]

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3. **[Stimulate (Philip 4.8; Isa 26.3) - Focus your mind - Think on these things.]**

*[Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things.**]*

*[Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on thee:** because he trusteth in thee.]*

[The Law of the Dog - David Jeremiah]

[When a master throws a dog a piece of meat or bread and commands no. The dog knows it cannot eat the food, so a well-trained dog will not look at the food, but will look at the master's face.]

[The law of the dog teaches us to get our focus off of the source of our temptation and onto something else. When temptation comes we need to refocus ourselves on God in order to get our minds off of the source of our temptation.]

[What you resist persists - David Jeremiah]

D. Render the temptation fruitful

1. [Let God mature you (James 1.1-4)]

James 1:1-4 ¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. ² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ **But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**

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CrossRoads Baptist Chruch, Evening, Feb 16, 2014
Sugar Creek, January 5, 2003