

## PROVERBS: Wisdom for Life

(How we deal with Temptation: Proverbs 5:5-9; 6:20-29)

Any good test takers in here? (get sick) Story of paying college kids to take H.S. students' SAT's  
In life, there is no one who can take the TEST of temptation for you ...until glorified =tempt real

Part of the human experience and the fallen human condition is experiencing real temptation =  
-the desire, want, & longing and internal **TEST** of doing something, watching something, saying  
something, or choosing something that you know definitively to be wrong, to go against God's  
command and heart. To *give into* a temptation is to choose to sin and to lean into selfishness  
and rebellion against God. It's putting our will & wants above His. Tempt./test =so hard (=help)

Temptation is a *moment* about both **Trust** and **Self-control**, **ruling your will** (not having your  
will rule you). *When* we experience temptation, we feel, (think) reason, debate that the thing  
which is not allowed *might* actually benefit you/help you/comfort you/please you/bless you.  
We debate it internally (like a prize fight in your soul: **Angel/devil**). We know it's  
wrong/bad/harmful BUT we really want it anyway. WHY??? What about our hearts lead us to  
want what we shouldn't have? Curiosity? Novelty? Boredom?

\*Remember, it's *not* really a temp. unless we KNOW it's wrong. =The *risk* of it entices us (**deadly**)

-Our problem is that as humans with a sinful bent in our hearts, we have a **heart** problem.

-Because of our pride and unbelief, we have a **TRUST** problem. We don't trust what God says!

\***This has been our reality from the very beginning. Garden of Eden (perfection) & the Evil One  
coaxes Eve...** Gen. 3:1 "has God really said?" -he lied; he twisted; he caused doubt; he tempted.

**TRUST:** In temptation, we are being tested, we are learning to Trust the heart of a Good Father,  
that He puts boundaries and protections around our life for our *safety, blessing, & longevity*. **DO  
you TRUST God's heart** to love you enough **NOT** to give you what you don't need; that God is in  
fact loving you, keeping from you what will actually hurt you in some way? Rob Him of His glory  
**Child play w/ cobra? Run in Traffic? Play w/ Fire - You ... Speed Limit Signs; Warning labels.**

In the moment of temptation, we are confronted with Trusting God more than our eyes, our  
appetite, our desires, our justifications, and the lies hurled our way ("no one will know;" "you  
deserve this;" "I'll just try it once; one little bit won't hurt a thing;" "no one's busi;" "not hurting"

How do you train your children for when they are going to be tempted? Face real choice/**consq**  
Proverbs =picture of a Father sitting his son down/explaining some things to him (**fireside chat**)  
**Son, don't ever eat yellow snow; never ask a woman her age/preg; don't ask unmarried marr adv.**

**READ Proverbs 5:1-9** (**Context** is Sexual immorality; sex before marriage w/a prostitute!) BUT,  
the proverb is a warning against any real temptation in your life: Adultery; porn; Excess Al

"My son, pay attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding,

<sup>2</sup> So that you may maintain discretion And your lips may comply with knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, And her speech is smoother than oil; (lure; bait; trap)

<sup>4</sup> **But** in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

<sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death, Her steps take hold of Sheol.

<sup>6</sup> She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know *it*.

<sup>7</sup> Now then, *my* sons, listen to me And do not turn away from the words of my mouth.

<sup>8</sup> Keep your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, (don't flirt, FLEE it)

<sup>9</sup> Otherwise you will give your vigor to others, And your years to the cruel one; (i.e. **slavery** to sin)

**21 For the ways of everyone are before the eyes of the Lord, And He observes all his paths.** <sup>22</sup> a man's own wrongdoings will trap the wicked, And he will be held by the ropes of his sin. He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his foolishness he will go astray.

**Turn to Proverbs 6:20-29** (God is watching; God *knows* our struggles/temptation/trials)  
"My son, comply with the commandment of your father, And do not ignore the teaching of your mother; <sup>21</sup> Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck.

<sup>22</sup> When you walk, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. <sup>23</sup> For the commandment [Word] is a lamp and the teaching is light; And rebukes for discipline are the way of life (called out; discipln=*save soul*)  
<sup>24</sup> To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the foreign woman.

<sup>25</sup> Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her capture you with her eyelids.

<sup>26</sup> For the price of a prostitute reduces one to a loaf of bread, [dufus] And an adulteress **hunts** for a precious life. 1 Pt. 5:8 "ur adversary, the devil prowling, roaring lion looking s-one to devour"

<sup>27</sup> Can anyone take fire in his lap And his clothes not be burned? (do you really think consq.

<sup>28</sup> Or can a person walk on hot coals And his feet not be scorched? don't apply to you???)

<sup>29</sup> So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her will not go unpunished.

Remember, all of us are tempted at times. Being tempted is **NOT** a sin. It's being human.

1. God never tempts anyone to do **evil** or to **not believe** in Him. James 1:13 "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. When you feel tempted to sin, this is *NOT* from God.
2. God does, however, allow us to be **tested** or tried in our **faith**. We can never know how strong or resilient our faith in Christ is until it is challenged and tested. (**muscles**) This testing from God is to strengthen our faith. God allows us to go through trials to grow us in greater dependence on Him. This is for our spiritual blessing, and when we pray for these challenges to be removed from us, we must learn to thank God for them & grow through them.
3. Satan does tempt us =entices us toward **evil**; = tempt us to choose **self** over God; to put our desires and "rights" above what God says we should; and Satan always lures us to want (and believe we can and should have) those things that God never intended for us. \*1 Pt. 5:8
4. Our biggest challenge is not satan, however; it is our own **heart**. Our heart is naturally bent away from trusting God and wanting to please self vs. God. Our heart is drawn toward disobedience. So when we are tempted, we are easy targets. Satan doesn't know our hearts, our thoughts, and cannot manipulate our hearts without his permission. Through our weakness and sin, we invite him in to ravage our hearts. So we can be easy prey (**sitting ducks/trap**) James 1:14 "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust."
5. The Lord provides real **help** when are tempted by sin: by your *own heart* or by **demonic influence**. 1 Jn. 4:4 "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."  
**AND** He provides a way of escape when you face temptation (*What does that mean for me?*)  
**1 C.10:13** "but with the temptation God will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it" This verse means that there is **One way of escape**; *THE* way of escape. We don't escape **from** temptation; we escape **through** temptation by God's presence and through His power. God *enables* us to endure the temptation without faltering (He reminds of His presence 5:21 **For the ways of everyone are before the eyes of the Lord, And He observes all his paths.**" And His Spirit empowers us to see the trap for what it is: **Are you sensitive to sin?**

....what does that mean practically for me??

**A. You are never alone; the Lord is with you.** He sees you; He knows your struggles; loves U

**B. The Lord understands our weakness & real temptation:** You are not as strong on ur own  
Mt. 4:1-11 "Jesus was led up by the Spirit to be tempted by the Devil" -Jesus gets it=**human**!!  
Heb. 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." =we are understood by the Lord =**we r unfinished people**

**C. and you do NOT have to succumb to your temptation/enticement;** you are not doomed or committed to have to sin; you don't have to fall into sin; the Spirit is greater; His power is greater; **there is NO "the devil made me do it"**

**D. The Lord is helping to moderate what you go through:** He is Sovereign. Testing =4 r good  
-1 C. 10:13: He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able

- Heb. 7:25 "Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives (He ever lives) to make intercession for them." **He is praying for us!**

**E. When we fail, the Lord stands ready to pick us up;** to hold us; to cleanse us -1 John 1:9  
**=you are not batting 100%.** You fail; I fail; but the Lord forgives our failure. *It doesn't define us*  
-We serve a Lord who gets us; who loves us; who alone can forgive us; who *loves* to forgive  
-Ps. 86:5 "For you, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive; and give abundant mercy to all who call upon you!"

### How do we battle temptation?

#### How does He help us through our temptations; How does He help us escape??

1. We **recognize it** for what it is (death/ruin); this is the enemy who wants to destroy you! =we cannot flirt with it -Rom. 13:14 "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts" (**the more you are in Word**, easier you recognize tempt., sin, *lures*)
2. We must **flee** from temptation & idols! =We run the *opposite way* from the temptation. **RUN** is NOT slow; contemplative (74 bible verses referencing fleeing from temptation)  
-Vs. 14: Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry** (see a shark =panic/run ...NOT dawdl)  
-2 Tim. 2:22 "Flee youthful lusts; follow righteousness" = **run** from sin/destruction and **run TO/toward the Lord** (presence), His Word, Godly people, Truth, hope/life!
3. We **cut out** things, opportunities, events, people (relationships), places, time, that cause us to struggle, weaken our resolve, tempt us more, or who help us rationalize that "it's not that bad;" "who will ever know anyway?" "It's not like your hurting anybody!" "everyone is doing it" ...these voices will sink you (NOT your friends; voices of *enemies* of God)  
-Matthew 5:29 "If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off! It is better for you to lose one of your members than your whole body go to hell."
4. We must **invite** others into our **weakness**; name it; be transparent; ask for accountability  
We must expose the temptation or the sin that plagues us. **SEE the cancer before cut it out**  
-when we expose the temptation, we take away its power to hurt us. **Porn; alcohol; flirting; \$**  
-James 5:16 "Confess your sins to one another & pray for one another that you may be healed." -  
Who really knows you? Knows your struggles? Accepts you for who you are? Loves you unconditionally? Points you back to the Lord?? Accountability/Encouragement
5. We **pursue the Lord's presence** through constant prayer; praying His Word; Asking for His strength; praying for His wisdom & discernment; Asking to be spiritually sensitive toward any/all sin and weaknesses; asking God to make you hate your sin (not love it); **asking God to help you kill sin in your life before it kills you.**

## APPLICATION

- Where are the areas of your life where you experience the most temptation?
- What area of your life is unguarded? A Blind spot? How would you know?
- Who knows you that well? Who is assessing your life that you trust?
- Who are you asking to speak into your weaknesses?
- What do you need to confess to someone that has been a struggle for you recently?
- Where are you constantly feeling like you are failing weekly? Cannot get victory?
- How do you plan to grow spiritually this year? To look more like Jesus? Perhaps you can begin by recognizing the idols of your heart. Asking God for strength to battle them.
- What is your plan to face and conquer your temptation(s)? Who will help you?
- What is God's plan for you to have victory? Admit it; confess it; expose it; repent of it; prepare for it's attack; depend on the Lord's power over your power!