

Lesson 6 – Overcoming Temptation

I. What's the difference and how do you know?

A. Examples of the difference between a test and temptation from James 1:2-4; 13-17 and 1 Peter 1:3-7

[See handout Page 5]

B. Definition of the difference between a test and a temptation

1. A test is an opportunity for you to practice Christlikeness by obeying God's Word, thus giving honor to Jesus Christ.

2. A temptation, which cannot originate from God, is a solicitation for you to disobey God's Word and to gratify your fleshly desires. When you yield to temptation, you inevitably experience consequences.

3. In any circumstance, the appeal to your self-centered feelings and fleshly desires is used by Satan as a temptation to entice you to sin. In stark contrast, the same circumstance is used by God as a test to help strengthen you as you obey His Word. Your response in this circumstance determines whether you will stand firm in your faith and please God or fall to temptation and please yourself.

II. Trials – 1 Peter 1:3-7 – principles of a trial

A. They last a I _____ while – He's in charge of the time

B. They are n _____ and serve a purpose – we learn more about God's sovereignty and love – He knows what I need and a trial maybe it.

1. To s_____ our faith.
2. To h_____ us so we don't get satisfied.
3. To w_____ us from dependence on worldly things
4. To call us to eternal and heavenly hope (2 Cor. 4:14-18; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
5. To reveal what we r_____ love.
6. To teach us to v_____ God's blessings
7. To enable us to h_____ o_____ in their suffering.
8. To develop in us e_____ strength for greater usefulness (2 Cor. 12:2-10) –

C. They cause d_____

D. They come in v_____ forms

E. They shouldn't change your j_____

III. Temptations – [See Page 3]

III. Temptations

	The FLESH says...	The WORLD says...	The TRUTH is...
LUST OF THE FLESH Seductive suggestions to satisfy normal bodily desires in ways that dishonor Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel hungry I'm bored so I'll eat If I skip a meal, I'll be starving later I can binge-eat for fun and then get rid of it later when no one's looking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will taste so-o-o good Eating is an important part of your day You have to have three meals a day You have to eat everything on your plate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gluttony Idolatry Legalism
(areas of food, sleep, alcohol, drugs, sex)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I need sleep even though I'm still angry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You need sleep, so take some pills Have a drink before you go to bed — you'll sleep better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're not to go to sleep on your anger
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm not drunk; I feel good I need a drink to relax me I need to drink to feel better and forget my hurt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting drunk is fun Drink alcohol so you can have fun at the party Everyone will like you more, if you're drinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drunkenness Causing a weaker brother to stumble
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She looks hot! It will feel great Just this one time; then it will be out of my system I love her/him so it's OK I won't get caught 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wouldn't she be great? She's better than what you have now You need it You can do it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adultery Coveting Immorality Lying Greed
LUST OF THE EYES Inordinate desire to acquire things of this world as proof of our position and rank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'll feel better about myself, if I have this This will show everyone what I've accomplished 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have to keep up with the Jones' How you dress shows where you are financially in life How much you earn depends on how much you learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Envy Jealousy Coveting Stealing Greed Idolatry
THE PRIDE OF LIFE Acquiring a position or rank in order to be seen as special	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's important to be a single-digit handicap I have the talent so I should use it. God gave it to me. I need this promotion; that's why I work so hard and so long 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting ahead makes life easier Working out and getting in shape will make you more efficient or desirable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrogance Coveting Lying Gossiping Slandering

IV. Overcoming Temptations

1. Change of mindset: The power of sin is broken in the life of the believer and God has provided a way of escape — Romans 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:13
2. Submission of heart to God: God wants us to submit our hearts to Him, to draw near to Him and away from ourselves or Satan — James 4:7-8
3. We NEED to be in the Word daily — Psalm 119:11
4. We NEED to keep our purpose in life — glorifying God — near to our daily living. It is God contentedness and being satisfied “in Him.” — 1 Corinthians 10:31
5. Having accountability can help sometimes — Proverbs 27:17
6. Thinking correctly — 2 Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8
7. Listening to the Spirit — Galatians 5:16; John 14:26; 1 Cor. 10:14 - flee
8. Pray — Ephesians 6:18; Luke 22:31ff.; Matthew 26:41
9. The principle of “Radical Amputation” — Matthew 5:29-30; Rom. 13:14 – no provision for the flesh
10. Pressing on — Philippians 3:14

James 1:2-4: *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing*

Peirasmos has the basic meaning of trying, testing, assaying, or proving and can have negative or positive connotations, depending on the context. In James 1:3 and 12, **peirasmos** is used in the sense of trials, or testings. And in James 1:13–14, the idea is clearly that of temptation, of solicitation to evil. The same word (in noun or verb form) is used for both ideas because the primary difference is not in the **peirasmos** itself but in a person's response to it. If a believer responds in faithful obedience to God's Word, he successfully endures a trial; if he succumbs to it in the flesh, doubting God and disobeying, he is tempted to sin. Right response leads to spiritual endurance, righteousness, wisdom, and other blessings. Wrong response leads to sin and death.

Dokimion is a Greek word that Strong's defines as a **testing** and it implies trustworthiness - faithfulness.

Dokimion is meant as a **proving of our character and it is always used for good**. This testing is always in a positive sense – God always designs this for your good.

James 1:12-15: *12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

Matthew 4:1-7: *1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

1 Peter 1:3-7: *3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*