



Temptation

By Terry Kountz on November 28, 2022

READING: Matthew 4

We have all faced temptation. Sometimes it is something small, like a delicious dessert when trying to lose weight. Other times it is something big, like cheating on a test or taking credit for something you did not do.

Lies and temptation have been coming our way since Satan convinced Adam and Eve that God was holding out on them, and they fell for it. *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it”* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Our God knows we will be tempted, and God Himself will provide an escape plan. Matthew 4:1-11 tells the story of Jesus’ own temptation and how to defeat temptation as He did:

- Temptation comes when we seem weak and defenseless, so be alert. (Matthew 4:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 12:10)
- The scriptures are our weapons against temptation, so arm yourself. Jesus used scripture to rebuke Satan (Matthew 4:7, 10, Ephesians 6:17 and James 1:25)
- God is faithful to protect us and provide for us so we can endure. (John 14:27 and Matthew 6:30)
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If we give up and give in, temptation leads to sin (James 1:2-15). But this does not have to be the case! Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to lead us and remind us whose we are (John 14:23-24). God is faithful to protect and provide an escape plan. The question is, Will we be faithful and take it?

PRAYER: Lord, help me recognize temptation when it comes my way. Help me listen to the Holy Spirit so I can escape temptation and not fall into sin. Help me ask for forgiveness when I fail.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 5

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