

Understanding Temptation

Part 1: The Meaning 1 Cor. 10; James 1

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 23rd

Reflection: The Exodus story wasn't about two nations, cultures or people groups; It was about two opposite (but not equal) spiritual forces! (Ex. 12:12; 19:4) God used it to demonstrate His power over all the other false "gods". Each of the 10 plagues was a direct attack on one of the "gods" Egypt worshiped!

In 1 Cor 10 God uses Israel's Exodus as an example of the Christian experiences. After deliverance from 400 years of slavery: 1 Cor 10:5-6 *"with many of them God was not pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness."* Why / How did this happen?

- God overthrew the gods of Egypt, But they had infiltrated the hearts of God's people.
- God had delivered them from Egypt; But they took some of "Egypt" with them.

1 Cor 10:6-10 lists some of the ways in which Satan and his demons seduced Israel after they left Egypt. 1 Cor 10:11-13: *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for all these things our admonition (warning)... 12 Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful..."*

Direction: Last week we discussed the origin of Satan as the leader of an enemy (demon) army who stands in opposition to God and His will. Satan literally means "adversary". We also discussed how he got his power from seducing 1/3 of the angels in heaven, As well as the entire human race. This morning we're going to examine how he accomplishes this.

1. The meaning of Temptation James 1

Temptation (pierasmos') means to prove, test; or to entice (to evil)

A. God "tests" us to reveal and reinforce Character! (Gen. 22:1; Is. 48:10)

James 1:2-3 *"count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ... the trying of your faith worketh patience."*

1) When we pass (endure) God's "tests" we:

- a) Grow in Faith James 1:2 *"The trying (doki'mion: testing/trustworthiness) of your faith"*
- b) Grow in Patience: *"...worketh patience."* (hupomone: endurance)
- c) Become equipped for our faith journey. 3 *"let patience have her perfect (telei'os: complete) work, that ye may be perfect and entire (holokleros: equipped) wanting nothing."*
- d) Grow in Wisdom. Vs 4 *"if any lack wisdom, let him ask of God..."*
- e) Receive God's blessings Jms 1:12 *"Blessed (Makarios: fortunate) is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, (dokimos: tested) he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (Ro 8:28,29)*

2) God will never tempt (entice us) to evil. Vs 13 *"God cannot be tempted with evil, (kakos: worthless) neither tempteth he any man."* (to do evil)

B. Satan "tempts" us to entice us to drift/rebel because it will:

1) Move us away from God's Plan/Protection. Jms 1:16 *"Do not err my beloved brethren"*

Err:(Planoa) means to roam, drift (from safety, truth, or virtue)

a) God's commandments are *"for our good always, that he might preserve us alive. Dt 6:24*

See Jn 10:10; Ps. 23:3; James 5:19-20 *"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; (Epistrephō: turn back (to God's plan, peace, protection) (Ps 23:3)*

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide (calyp'to: cover) a multitude of sins."

2) Give him (Satan) more “power and/or ***influence***” in our lives.

When we drift from God, *we drift toward Satan!* Ro. 6:18; 1 Cor 10:14

“Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry!” (eidōlatrī’a) from ei’dolon: image (of heathen god) and latrei’a: to minister, serve, and/or worship

a) When we yield to Satan’s temptations we:

(1) Isolate ourselves from God’s ***protection***. Is. 59:1,2

(2) Feed our carnal appetites. (Flesh) Gal. 5:17 Which can grow to ***control*** us!
(Pr 5:21,22; 23:29-35; Pr. 20:1)

(3) Expose ourselves to demonic activity & influence. 1 Cor. 10:14 “*flee idolatry...*”

20 “...*the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and I would not that ye should have fellowship* (Koinōnos: partaker, partner) *with devils.*” (daimon’ion: demons)

b) The more we yield to temptation, (aka: sin) the more power/pull we

surrender to the devil(s). Ro. 6:16 “*to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants* (doulos: slave) *ye are...*”

(1) This is how Satan became “*the god of this world*” 2 Cor 4:4; Luke 4:6

(2) This is why Jesus could say: “*The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me*” Jn 14:30

The more iron in an object, *the stronger the attraction to the magnet!*

Conclusion:

Temptation (pierasmos) mean to prove, test, or to entice.

Every Temptation involves a Test (proof) of our:

- Fidelity/ Faithfulness (See Job 1,2)
- Integrity/Commitment to Truth. (See Joseph in Gen. 39)
- Stability/ Strength of Character (See Daniel 4)
- Stupidity/Folly (See the young fool in Pr 7:7-27)

Application: James 1:16-22

21: “*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*”

Are you grafting God’s word in your soul?

- This is how Jesus defeated Satan’s Temptation. Mt 4
- This is how we fight back! (Eph. 6:16,17)



16 *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*”

Ro. 10:17: “*faith comes by hearing, (akouo: understanding) and hearing by the word of God*”