

# How to overcome temptation

(How the Spiritual warfare is won)

**Matthew 4:1-11**

# Biblical usage of the word “Temptation”

1. “**prove by testing**” is done by God to determine the depth and integrity of one’s commitment to God (**Abraham’s sacrifice** of Issac Gen. 22:1-19, **Testing of Job** 1-2). In **NT persecution** as a ‘testing’ in this manner (1 Pet. 1:3-9) - if people overcame temptation (test), their faith has been enhanced and their character strengthened
2. **Modern meaning of the word** – enticement leading to a deliberate act of evil against God or one’s neighbor [<sup>13</sup>When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For **God cannot be tempted** by evil, **nor does he tempt** anyone [\*\*James 1:13\*\*](#)]
3. **Human being’s attempt to put God to a test (manipulate God)** stemming from lack of trust

**1**"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and **out of Egypt I called my son.**      **Hosea 11:1**

**5** Now if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine. **6** And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites."

**Exodus 19:5-6**

**9**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**1 Peter 2:9**

**16** As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. Suddenly the heavens were opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and resting on Him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased! [4:1] Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit... **Matthew 3:16-4:1**

**9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; **11** and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

**12** Immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness. **Mark 1:9-12**

**1** Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, **Luke 4:1**

“We are not ignorant of his devices”

[2 Cor. 2:11](#)

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the LORD and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the **devil's** schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but **against** the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

[Ephesians 6:10-12](#)

# Satan's identity (Old Testament)

1. He was named Lucifer before his fall. [Isa. 14:12]
2. He was the perfection of wisdom and beauty [Ezek. 28:12]
3. He was in Eden. [Ezek. 28:13]
4. He was the anointed cherub of God. [Ezek. 28:14]
5. He fell through pride. [Ezek. 28:17]
6. He wanted to be like God and He attempted to steal God's throne. [Isa. 14:13, 14]
7. He was at the garden of Eden causing Adam and Eve to sin [Gen. 3:1, Rev. 12:9, 20:2]

# Satan's control (New Testament)

- <sup>6</sup> And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. [**Luke 4:6**]
- <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. [**John 12:31**]
- <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. [**2 Corinthians 4:4**]
- <sup>19</sup> We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. [**1 John 5:19**]

# Satan (believer's reaction to him)

- <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **[James 4:7]**
- <sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. **[1 Peter 5:8-9]**
- <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **[Romans 8:37]**
- <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **[Ephesians 6:10-11]**



# Comparison

<b><u>All of</u> Satan's Tempting power</b>	<b>Temptation at the Garden of Eden</b>	<b>Temptation in the wilderness</b>
<b><u>Appeal to physical appetite</u></b>	<b>You may eat of any tree (Gen. 3:1-3)</b>	<b>You may turn stone into bread (Matt. 4:3)</b>
<b><u>Appeal to personal gain</u></b>	<b>you will not die (Gen. 3:5-6)</b>	<b>You will not hurt your foot (Matt. 4:6)</b>
<b><u>Appeal to power and glory</u> (shortcut)</b>	<b>You will be like God (Gen. 3:4)</b>	<b>You will have all the world's kingdom (Matt. 4:9)</b>

**8** Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. <sup>2</sup> Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, **to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** <sup>4</sup> Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

### **Deuteronomy 8:1-5**

# Kidron valley temple mount



**11** For he will command his angels concerning  
you

to guard you in all your ways;

**12** they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a  
stone.

**Psalm 91:11-12**

**16** Do not put the LORD your God to the test as  
you did at **Massah**.

**Deuteronomy 6:16**

24 “God is Spirit, and His worshipers must  
worship Him in Spirit and in truth.”  
[John 4:24]



what we call temptation is not meant to make us sin; it is meant to enable us to conquer sin. It is not meant to make us bad but it is meant to make us good.

Not meant to weaken us but to make us emerge stronger and finer and purer from the ordeal.

Temptation is not the penalty of being human, temptation is the glory of being human.

It is the test which comes to those whom God wishes to us