

# FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

## Temptation

### 1 TEMPTATION BIBLICALLY CLARIFIED (Genesis 4:6-7)

▶ Greek: πειράζω = peirázo

a) Put to the test    b) Tempt

▶ Sources of πειράζω / peirázo

a) Trials/Testings: From God & the circumstances of life

b) Temptations to do evil: Satan, the world, and the flesh (our fallen nature)

▶ Distinguishing between Temptation & Sin (James 1:13-15)

▶ Question: So when is the best time to resist temptation?

▶ Answer: Right at the beginning! Nip it in the bud at the very first thought!!

▶ Temptation Defined: Any form of enticement that leads us to disobey the will of God

...temptation usually offers some seeming advantage

...temptation is an internal craving for gratification that is normally offered from without

### 2 THE BASIS OF TEMPTATION

▶ Legitimate needs [Promise: Philippians 4:19]

### 3 THE PURPOSE OF TEMPTATION

▶ It's an attempt to entice us to live a life independent of God

### 4 THE NATURE / CHANNELS OF TEMPTATION (1 John 2:15-17; 1 Corinthians 10:13)

▶ To work through the cravings of the flesh, the lust of the eyes & the pride of life to draw us away from the will of God, the Word of God & the worship of God

▶ Illustration: Temptation of Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:1-7) - Failure

▶ Illustration: Temptations of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11) - Success

### 5 THE POWER OF TEMPTATION

▶ Do we really know & believe that we are dead to sin and alive in Christ?

▶ How determined are we to live a righteous life, knowing that God is able and willing to meet all our needs in Christ?

### 6 THE WAY OF ESCAPE

▶ Grow in your knowledge of the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15)

▶ Turn to Christ in the midst of the battle (Hebrews 4:15-16)

▶ Maintain a constant discipline of your thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5)

### 7 WHAT IF IT'S TOO LATE? WHAT IF I'VE ALREADY SINNED?

▶ The Way of Freedom: Sin ▶ Confess ▶ Resist (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16)

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## Temptation

Sermons can be viewed online at [creeksideeg.com/sermon](http://creeksideeg.com/sermon)

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

### PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God that even though we are tempted, He is faithful and never allows us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, but always provides a way of escape. Pray for strength and courage to take His escape route!

### MY STORY

1. In your estimation, what kinds of temptations are each of the following groups most susceptible to? Why?
  - a. Teenagers
  - b. Young adults
  - c. Middle age adults
  - d. Senior citizens

### DIGGING DEEPER

2. What point(s) from Sunday's message gave you new insight into the subject of temptation?
3. What is the difference between a test/trial and a temptation regarding their source and purpose? Define each one.
4. Briefly explain how Satan, the world, and the flesh seek to get us to fall into sin. Give an example of each one.
5. Read **Genesis 3:1-7** and **Matthew 4:1-11**. How did Eve respond to Satan compared to Jesus, and what was the result of each encounter?

6. When is the best time to resist temptation? Why do we often not follow this pattern?

### DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

7. In **1 Corinthians 10:13**, God promises to provide a way of escape from temptation. Briefly describe each way of escape mentioned below, and then match one of the following verses to it by writing the reference in the space provided: **Hebrews 4:15-16**, **2 Corinthians 10:5** and **2 Timothy 2:15**.

- Grow in your knowledge of the Word of God\_\_\_\_\_

- Turn to Christ in the midst of the battle\_\_\_\_\_

- Maintain a constant discipline of your thoughts\_\_\_\_\_

8. Read **Proverbs 28:13**. What does this verse call people to do if they fall into sin? Even though Scripture says the result will be to "find mercy," why is it difficult?

9. What role does accountability have in breaking free from sin?

### TAKING IT HOME

10. What wisdom do the following verses give us for the spiritual battle in either avoiding sin, or dealing with it if we have fallen?

- **Matthew 6:13**

- **James 4:7**

- **James 5:16**

### PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and ask God to help you beat temptation through His power so you live in the joy that comes through spiritual victory.