

3. **A DELIBERATE DECISION AND ACT OF THE WILL**

2Tim 2:22 - "Flee youthful lusts"

Pro 4:14,15. - "Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."

1Pet 2:11 - ".....abstain from fleshly lusts....."

4. Keep away from the sources of temptation. What are some of these? _____

THE RESULTS OF TEMPTATION

1. **If yielded to:** i.e. if the wrong decision is made... it becomes sin. From Bob Mumford: "Temptation may lead to sin, but only if we make the definite choice in that direction. Temptation is not the cause of wrong-doing, it just presents us with a choice".
Because we are responsible for our decisions, what will happen if we continually give in to temptation? *Jam 1:15*.

2. **If resisted:** i.e. if the right decision is made *Jam 1:12*.
- a. The Lord is glorified.
 - b. The believer grows stronger to overcome sin.
 - c. The believer's love for, and obedience to, the Lord is confirmed.
 - d. The believer's capacity to receive from God is enlarged.
 - e. The believer grows in faith and maturity.

IMMEDIATE RESTORATION

If we do sin when we are temptedwhat is God's answer?
1Jn 1:9, Lk 11:4 _____

Keep short accounts with God. Be quick to repent and be cleansed in the blood of Jesus. *1Jn 1:7, 1Jn 2:1,2*

No 14

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Fourteen: Temptation

Every Christian, young and old alike, knows what it is to be tempted to sin. In fact, temptation is one of the most familiar experiences of the child of God. We trust that this study will help you in facing temptation and dealing with it in a victorious way.

DEFINITION OF TEMPTATION

Over the last 200 years the word "temptation" has undergone a change in meaning. It once meant both "testing" and "seducing to evil," thus having a positive and negative significance.

- a. **The Positive** Temptation is a testing of our lives permitted by God, with the intent of producing spiritual growth.
- b. **The Negative** Temptation is satan's seductive enticing of the believer to live contrary to God's plan for his/her life.

THE ORIGIN OF TEMPTATION

Read *Jam 1:13*. What does this verse tell us about the origin of temptation? _____

Who tempted Jesus in *Mat 4:1*? _____

What is said to tempt us in *Jam1:14*? _____

Who is said to tempt us in *Pro 1:10*? _____

In *Job 1:12 & 2:6* we see that God actually gave satan permission to tempt this man.....but only within certain boundaries.

THE PURPOSE OF TEMPTATION OR TESTING

Write out *Jam 1:2-4* in your own words _____

Bob Mumford in his book, “The Purpose of Temptation” gives the following reasons why God allows Christians to be tempted.

- 1. Temptation shows us what we are really like.**
“ ‘While you were in New York, I came mighty close to breaking the promise I gave you about not using the car while you were away,’ a young man said to his father. ‘You left the keys on the kitchen table and I carried them around in my pocket for three days fighting the temptation.’ The father smiled. ‘Son, there’s nothing like temptation to show you what you’ll do if you are given the opportunity!’”
- 2. Temptation establishes the pattern of our future decisions.**
The function of temptation is always to trigger a choice and provoke a definite stand or action. As in the case of the young man and the car keys, the keys on the kitchen table presented the temptation that forced him to make a difficult and important decision. Should he disobey his father and fail to be faithful to his word and promise, which would make it psychologically easier to repeat this kind of choice? or should he – by his obedience – establish the pattern for mature and wise decisions in the future?
- 3. TEMPTATION IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF OUR LIVES TO RECEIVE THE GOOD THINGS GOD DESIRES TO GIVE US.**

The question is whether or not we have the capacity to receive what God has promised. Untempered steel, given too much pressure, will

break. Fulfilment of a promise, without preparation, can break us as well....temptation is designed to prepare us to receive what we long to have.

With regard to this, look at the test given to Abraham in *Gen 22:1-18*.

GOD KNOWS HOW MUCH TEMPTATION WE CAN TAKE.

Write out in your own words *1Cor 10:13* _____

The fact that we are faced with a certain temptation is proof in itself that we are able to deal with it successfully, for God **never** allows the devil to tempt us beyond our “breaking point.”

2Cor 12:9. How does God do this? _____

HOW TO DEAL WITH TEMPTATION

- 1. By using the Word of God.** Read the account of Jesus’ temptation in *Mat 4:1-11*. In *v4,7,10*, how did Jesus overcome the temptations of satan? _____
- 2. ADVICE THAT JESUS GAVE**
Mat 26:41 – “Watch” (keep your eyes open; be aware of the tactics of the enemy) “and pray” (be continually developing a close relationship with God). If we follow Jesus’ advice, what will be the result? _____
