

# Temptation

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Temptations are something that we all know in this life. All of us have faced them and will as long as we live. Even Jesus faced them just like us when he walked on earth in a body of flesh. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. **Hebrews 4:15**, "Tempted, but without sin could be spoken of Jesus, but not of us." We have known the heartbreak of sin too well. Temptations come in many forms and kinds. While we may not be tempted by all of them we sure are by some of them. What doesn't tempt you may really be a problem for someone else. Then what is a bad temptation to you may not bother another person in the least.

Something that offends you will not tempt you for you will not desire it. What tempts you will be something that you want to have, or to do. That is why we are not all tempted by the same thing, for we all have different wants and desires. We are in a constant battle in the spirit to do that which is right and the battle will not end until

either we die, or the Lord returns. Until then we must continue to fight against those things that tempt us to sin.

*"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed," James 1:12-14.*

It would be great if there were no temptations to bother us, but there is and will continue to be. We make a mistake if we try to ignore that which tempts us. The more you try not to think about a temptation the more you find yourself thinking about it. We must face the temptation and acknowledge it to ourselves and to God. Ignoring it will not make it go away. Prayer is our help as we talk to the Lord and ask for his help. Filling our minds and hearts with God's Word instead of focusing on that which bothers us will redirect our minds away from the temptation.

As someone said years ago, "There is no sin in being tempted, the sin comes when we give in to the temptation." None of us have withstood all the things that the evil one has put before us, even though we have tried. If

we have been overcome by something, repent and tell the Lord about it. He will forgive and bless as we seek to do his will.

Some think that they are tempted more than anyone else, but that is because they feel the hurt of what they are going through. Someone else may feel the same, but all are tempted and knows his sorrow more than that of someone else. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it," 1 Corinthians 10:13.* The Lord makes a way to escape and overcome the temptation although we may not always see it, or recognize it for what it is.

Always remember that the Lord knows our hearts and what we believe. Jesus was tempted and has compassion on his children. Isn't it sad that God can forgive and help the fallen child, but man who struggles with temptations himself is often quick to judge and slow to forgive someone else? Of course he wants forgiveness and understanding for himself, but is often unwilling to grant it to another person. The Lord said that if we would not forgive others then we would not be forgiven for our sins.

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THE EGYPTIAN PRINCES HAVE NOW LEARNED FROM MERCHANTS THAT AN EASTERN BEAUTY IS LIVING IN THE LAND - JUST SUCH A THING AS ABRAM HAS FEARED MIGHT HAPPEN, IS HAPPENING....

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...SO NOW, BEING HIGH-BORN NOBLES, THEY ENTER ABRAM'S CAMP, DEMANDING TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN....

...AND ALONE, A STRANGER IN THE LAND, ABRAM CAN DO NOTHING BUT COMPLY!

HOW TRUE! HOW TRUE! BY ALL THE GODS OF THE LAND, THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN! THESE PRINCES ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF BEAUTY AND APPRECIATIVE OF OPPORTUNITY ALSO! THE PHARAOH WILL SURELY REWARD ANY MAN WHO CAN LEAD HIM TO A PRIZE SUCH AS THIS! AH, YES, THIS BEAUTY BECOMES EVEN MORE SO IN THE EYES OF THESE BEHOLDERS....

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