

III. Temptations or Attacks from Satan

1. **REV 12:9** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

When Bad Things Happen: Study III. Temptations or Attacks of Satan

The Scriptures speak of three types of "trouble" for the believer:

- I. Temptations or Attacks from Satan
- II. Tests, Trials, Persecutions, Suffering
- III. Discipline, Judgement, or Rebuke from the Lord

So is this present trouble the Hand of the Lord in direct rebuke, or the promised testing of our faith, or are we being "had" by Satan? We should know, so we can respond accordingly.

	TEMPTATION	TEST / TRIAL	DISCIPLINE
FROM	World/Satan/Flesh	God or World/Satan/Flesh	God
RESULT OF	Pride or Exposure	Following God	Disobedience
HOW TO DISCERN	Leads Astray	Proves Faith	Fits Crime
RIGHT RESPONSE	Resist!	Persevere!	Repent!
DO NOT	Fall Into	Shrink Back	Make Light of
GOD IS SAYING	The Flesh is Weak	His Name is In Us	We Are Sons
END WITH	Sin or Victory	Death and Glory	Fear and Holiness

THE ADVERSARY

2. **JOB 2:4** "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. 5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." 6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." 7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. 8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. 9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

DO NOT DEFEND YOURSELF

3. **MAT 5:25** "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.
4. **1TI 1:15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

THE FLESH IS WEAK

5. **1TH 3:5** For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.
6. **2CO 2:11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.
- **Oswald Chambers:** "A man's disposition on the inside, i.e., what he possesses in his personality, determines what he is tempted by on the outside. The temptation fits the nature of the one tempted, and reveals the possibilities of that nature. Every man has the setting of this own temptation, and the temptation will come along the line of the ruling disposition. Temptation yielded to... is a proof that it was timidity that prevented the sin before."

TEMPTATION 101

7. **IJO 5:18** We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.
8. **JAM 1:13** When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.
- **Oswald Chambers:** "Until we are born again, [this is] the only temptation we understand. But by regeneration we are lifted into another realm where we face the kind of temptations Our Lord faced... Satan does not tempt us to do wrong things, he tempts us in order to make us lose... the possibility of being of value to God... Temptation is a suggested short-cut to the realization of the highest at which I aim - not at what I understand as evil, but towards what I understand as good... [At this point Satan] does not come along the line of tempting us to sin, but on the line of shifting the point of view, and only the Spirit of God can reveal this as a temptation of the devil."

THE TEMPTER, AND THE ONE WHO BEAT HIM

9. **MAT 4:1** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
10. **HEB 2:18** Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
- **C.S. Lewis:** "No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because he was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means - the only complete realist."

OUR HIGH PRIEST, OUR DEFENSE ATTORNEY AGAINST THE ACCUSER

11. **HEB 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

FIGHT LIKE HELL

12. **HEB 12:4** In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
- ...In fact, most of us have not even made an honest attempt at resisting temptation. We cave in immediately without much of a fight. "Well, I'll quit doing that next week." "Why struggle now when I know I am going to do it again anyway?" "It is just a matter of time, and now is as good a time as any." But temptation feeds on weakness and bent desires. We need to start struggling to see what holiness is all about, to see if we will like it in eternity with God. We will also see just how strong we are and what we are made of.

SPIRITUAL WIMPS

- One of the things that makes us cave-in to temptation so early is that we often have the sense that we are going to fail anyway, so why even put up a struggle? But are we so sure of this? Didn't the problem of last year or month strike us with the same despair? And yet with God it was possible. **Spiritual growth seems so impossible in the moment, and so easy in retrospect.** We need to remember how unlikely it seemed we would ever: profess Christ, pray in public, witness, and all of the other steps along the way, as we face the temptation to give up now. After all, this too will pass. We can, and will make it by the grace of God. And God has given us His word...
13. **1CO 10:13** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

ON GUARD

14. **GAL 6:1** Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.
15. **PRO 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN DANGEROUS TERRITORY UNLESS GOD IS WITH YOU!

16. **1CO 7:5** Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
17. **EPH 4:26** "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.
18. **1TI 6:9** People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

19. **1PE 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

ATTACKS OF SATAN

20. **DAN 6:16** So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" 17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. 19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" 21 Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." 23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.
21. **Ps. 23:5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...
- **Oswald Chambers:** "We have the idea that we ought to shield ourselves from some of the things God brings round about us. Never! God engineers circumstances and whatever they may be like we have to see that we face them while abiding continually with Him... They are.. temptations to the life of the Son of God in us. The honor of Jesus Christ is at stake in your bodily life."

THE SECRET WEAPON

- How would a cadaver respond to this temptation? "Reckon yourself dead.." to every instinct, impulse, and desire of the flesh. This is the violence of the war of the Kingdom of God (Mat 11:12). This is the cross we bear that leads to victory. This is "the way of the Lord."
22. **ROM 6:11** In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.
23. **LUK 9:23** Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
24. **2CO 4:10** We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.
25. **ROM 8:13** For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

CAN'T TOUCH THIS...

26. **1JO 5:18** We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.
27. **GAL 5:16** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.
28. **JAM 4:7** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

THE DAY IS COMING

29. **EPH 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 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. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.
30. **2TI 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
31. **MAT 6:13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'
32. **1CO 10:13** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.