

Subject: Temptation
Text: 1 Cor. 10:13
Method: Textual
Title: Tempted and Drawn Away
General Purpose: Instruct concerning temptation.
Specific Purpose: Examine temptation and its effect on God's people.
Thesis Sentence: Temptation is a trial of faith intended by Satan to destroy fidelity with God, but, if overcome, works toward strengthening fidelity with God.

Introduction

- A. Tempted and drawn away by own lusts (Jas. 1:13-16; Lk. 8:13)
 - 1. For example, Luke 15:11-32
 - 2. How is one tempted? See Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor. 11:3; Mat. 4:1-11; 1 Thes. 3:5; 1 Jn. 2:16.
- B. Must warn and equip to overcome temptation
 - 1. The scriptures can help (Acts 20:27-31; 1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 2:18; Jas. 1:2-3; 2 Pt. 2:9)
 - 2. Jesus can help (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16; Rev. 3:10)

I. What is Temptation?

- A. Heb. *nissa* -- i.e.. 1 Sam. 17:39, proving or testing armor
 - 1. Sometimes applied to mans' challenging, or tempting, God to act (cf. Ex. 17:2-7; De. 6:16; Psm. 78:56-62; Psm. 95:8-11)
 - 2. Word rarely applied to Satan's tempting man, yet essence is involved in temptation of Eve (Gen. 3:13; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14)
 - a. Deception is an important role in Satanic temptation
 - b. No frontal assault on God, but uses doubt, skepticism, rebellion, which result in disobedience and sin
- B. Gk. *ekpeirazo* -- context determines whether tempting or testing/trying
 - 1. Sometimes refers to sinful tempting of God (Mat. 4:7 -- It is written again, you shall not tempt the Lord your God; Heb. 3:7-11 quotes Psm. 95:7-11; 1 Cor. 10:9 refers to Israel's rebellion in the wilderness)
 - 2. Acts 5:9 -- Annanias & Saphira tempted by presumption
 - a. attempted to deceive the church and the apostles
 - b. in so doing lied to the Spirit of God (vs. 3, 4) and tested/tempted the Spirit of the Lord

II. Temptation in its negative context is always traceable to Satan

- A. HE is in constant, unceasing conflict with Divine purposes
 - 1. Satan is the embodiment of intelligence and will, completely devoid of morality
 - 2. Mat. 4:3; 1 Thes. 3:5 declare him the "tempter"
 - 3. Mode of operation seen in Gen. 3:1-5, where he skillfully undermined man's fidelity with his God
- B. His strategies are basic (1 Jn. 2:16), appeal to pride and the senses
 - 1. Have not changed, but presented in endless variations
 - 2. Lack of self-control makes us vulnerable (1 Cor 7:5)
 - 3. Ex. 12:38; Num. 11:4 -- The mixed multitude among them "fell to lusting," and Israel began murmuring -- Satan has agents among God's people! (When were you last tempted by a stranger?)
- C. He masquerades artfully as "good" -- 2 Cor 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
 - 1. Food for thought -- he appropriates/imitates highest levels of life and religion for evil purposes
 - 2. Resulting in confusion of morality, which is another trademark of his influence -- Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
 - 3. Let all beware!

III. Positive context -- Testing/trying

- A. Various forms (determined by context) refer to trying or strengthening the believer's faith
- B. 2 Cor 12:7-9 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
 - 1. Thorn is under God's sovereign control
 - 2. But in v. 7 is called a messenger of Satan
 - 3. v. 10 Paul saw an occasion to glorify God -- he saw God's purpose in trial and knew that strength would follow through overcoming, so he could rejoice
- C. Even the worst of situations can work out for the betterment of the saints -- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
 - 1. Overcoming temptation is to pass a test of character and will, which results in moral and spiritual strengthening, and improving our relationship with God -- James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
 - a. God is never the source of "temptation" (Jas. 1:13), which entices us to do that which is out of keeping with God's expressed will for us
 - b. But He "tests" us (Gen. 22:1-2), which is intended to strengthen us toward keeping His expressed will for us
 - 2. Read Gen. 22:15-18 -- His intention in testing us is that we might be fit to receive his blessing

Conclusion

- A. As long as moral conflict rages between God and the Adversary, spiritual tension and temptation will be experienced by all mankind, even the redeemed
 - Acts 14:22 ...we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.
 - Heb 10:32-34
- B. Enticement to sin and rebellion is the work of Satan, he is the "tempter" 1 Thes. 3:5
 - 1. By his deception, targeting areas where we lack self-control, he intends to distract us from complying with the will of God
 - 2. 1 Pet. 5:8-9 -- He is a ravenous beast who seeks to devour and consume
- C. God will provide deliverance: 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Pet. 2:9; Lk. 22:40; Gal. 6:1
- D. Like Jesus, triumph over temptation is in the *immediate* use of the word of God -- Mat. 4:3-11 -- here He demonstrated the truth of 1 Jn. 3:8
 - 1. In all points tempted like us, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15) and qualified to comfort us in our temptation (Heb. 2:18)
 - 2. Temptation itself is not sin, but succumbing to it is!
 - 3. Defend with the word
 - 4. Avoid situations where you become object of temptation -- 1 Cor. 15:33; Rom. 13:14; 1 Thes. 5:21-22
 - 5. Remember Job -- Job 23:8-12

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