

HANDLING TEMPTATIONS

When God first delivered us from sin, he also delivered us from many temptations. However, he left a few in us so that we could be exercised in the ongoing salvation of Jesus.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

We normally think temptations come from within, and tribulations come from without. But it really makes no difference where it comes from, because our responses all come from inside. To always focus our attention on the sources distracts us from studying our responses. However, to a Christian, temptations become tribulations when we resist them. As strange as this may seem, it is God's will that we experience temptations/tribulations.

What we need to realize is that experiencing tribulation **develops** patience in us. Patience begins in tribulations, develops in tribulations and finally perfects us in spite of the tribulations. Therefore, it turns out that patience is actually stronger than any temptation or tribulation! It will outlast every temptation and tribulation! Becoming quiet on the inside is the first good sign you are becoming more patient. Gaining confidence in God is the second good sign. **Isaiah 30:15a** For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength...

Look at the spirit found in these two scriptures:
EXO 14:13
2 Chron. 20:17

Rather than be afraid of temptations, it seems God wants us just to stand quietly on the side and identify them as they come up and pass through us. If we become afraid and fight them, wrestle with them or otherwise pay them too much attention, they just give us more trouble. It is important to keep our attention more toward the Lord than the temptation. This is how we learn what motivates us if we remain unaware of it.

The potential of what lies within us needs to be exposed and identified, much like how God taught Adam:

Gen. 2:19 And out of the ground (*"Adamah" in Hebrew*) the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

It was Adam's response that God was watching. Adam didn't need to see the animals as science sees them today, but by bringing up a name from within himself, was learning what potential he had within himself. That is why he was not deceived when he made the decision to transgress.

God was simply establishing communication with Adam.

Jesus had gone through a similar process as Adam did, as recorded in....

Mark 1:13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

At times it may feel like we carry the whole zoo inside of us when we are in a season of manifold temptations, but this just gives us an opportunity to purify our hearts.

To purify our hearts successfully, we need certain things to begin:

1. We need temptations and trials.

1 Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

2. We need belief/faith.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

3. We need to rejoice and glory when tempted and tried.

Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

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4. We need to exercise patience.

Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

James 1:3-4 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5. We need to gain experience.

Romans 5:4(a) And patience, (*works*) experience;

6. We need to have hope.

Romans 5:4(b) and experience, (*works*) hope:

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

7. We need to see God.

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Luke 6:40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

A "WALK THROUGH" OF 1 COR. 10:13

1 Corinthians 10:13 There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.

There hath no temptation taken you... We should be aware that temptation wants to take us somewhere, and it's toward Adam!

but such as is common to man:

What you are thinking/feeling/willing is happening to millions of people right now. Your temptations are not unique because you are not unique. But you can become unique! The

crowd, like lemmings, will go blindly on, unaware of what spirit they are of, each one thinking only of themselves. But you are learning to realize that there is no profit for you to go the same way. They have no change. Change is available to you.

When you acknowledge this, you suddenly stand out from the crowd. God's attention begins to focus on you. Now you become unique! Out of all the crowd, you are making room for God to work in you. (*Col. 1:29*)

but God is faithful, Here is where God begins to work in you mightily.... and you can begin learning how to work with him.

who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; Once you are "out of the crowd" your individual ability to resist the temptation (*with your current level of patience*) is taken into consideration. God will "carry the big end of the stick".

but will with the temptation God will not remove the temptation, but help you remain quiet and observe how temptation tries to work in you - affect you - influence you. You are learning what is in man like Jesus did. (*John 2:24,25*)

also make a way to escape, Jesus is our way, but God will make a way into him for you personally. Jesus will teach you how he handled it, point by point. Now you are learning what is in Jesus - all the things that God filled him with! (*Eph. 3:19*)

that ye may be able to bear it. With Jesus, we can do all things that God desires for us. This is where Jesus' own life begins to manifest in our mortal flesh. (*Gal. 2:20*)

This is how we handle temptation – by beginning to purify our hearts, and according to scripture, we can purify it even to the extent that Jesus is pure. Then we will also be able to see God as he moves in this world.