

Temptations Trying
1John 2:15-17
1-17-2010

Jesus tells us that temptations are sure to come (Mat.18:7) and you can be sure that is true. These temptings are not all bad because they bring a testing of our faith, a testing of our resolve. (James 1:2-4) James wants us to know that our maturing is dependent upon the growth we gain by enduring temptations.

Peter also confirms that the trials can produce positive results. (1Pet.1:3-7) God is not the one who tempts us but He does use our tempting to a positive end. (James 1:13) Temptations are connected to the nature of our flesh. John gives us some insight into the nature of temptations. (1Jn.2:15-17)

John indicates three areas of attack: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. I called these things an attack because they war against us, against our souls. (1Pt.2:11)

Compare these elements against the 1st recorded temptation. (Gen.3:6) When Eve was tempted by Satan the Word tells us she saw the fruit was good to eat, (lust of the flesh) She saw that it was pleasing to the eye, (lust of the eye) and

she saw it was desirable for gaining wisdom. (pride of life) There is similar connection between these three temptations and those that Jesus experienced. (Mat.4:1-11) We also know from Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15 that Jesus was tempted in every way that you and I are but He unlike us succeeded. (He passed the tests.)

Jesus understood that the flesh desired things that were contrary to the will of God. His defense against tempting things was the Word of God. The word of God tells us that these things that tempt are not from God but from the world and our nature. (James 1:13-18) James tells us that Good and perfect Gifts come from God. Later James expands on where the origins of these things come from. (James 3:13-18)

Paul gives us a larger list of those things that tempt and war against us and their counterparts, those good things that come from God. (Gal.5:16-26) Paul's desire for you and I is that we come to understand what we have in Christ and learn to put it into practice.

What God has given us is most precious; His Spirit. That Spirit that He has caused to now dwell in us bears fruit and that fruit needs growing. Peter also encourages us in this. That is to grow and develop and expand what He has given. (2Pet.1:3-11)