

Strategies of the Enemy

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."

– Matthew 4:1

Notable Facts

- Temptation = enticement by the devil that always includes sin and its aim is to destroy us.
- Temptations come from the devil
 - **“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”**
(James 1:13)



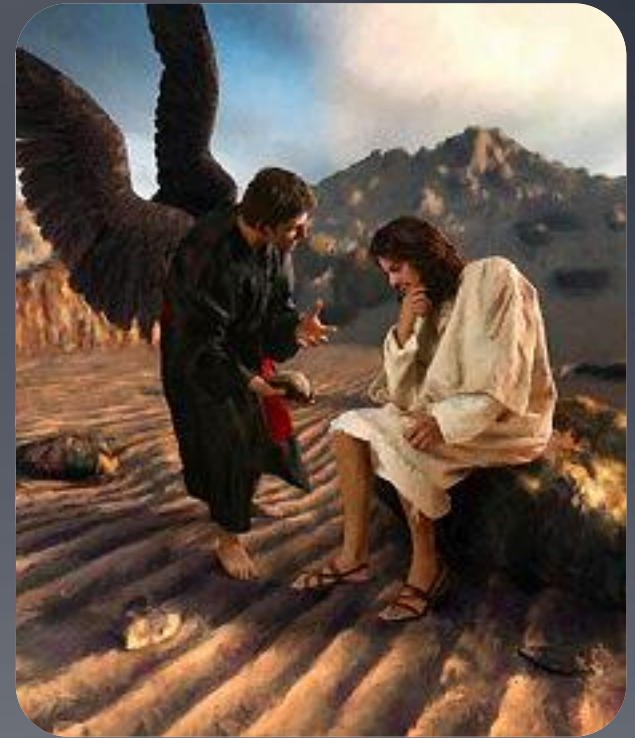
Notable Facts

- Temptations may be aimed at our God-given gifts
- Temptations may address God-given desires



Notable Facts

- Temptations are enticements to meet our God-given desires in an ungodly way
 - "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."



Notable Facts

- He is the father of lies
 - “...for he is a liar and the father of it.”
(John 8:44)
- Temptations come to everyone



Strategies of the Enemy

1. His focus is on our need

- Satanic lies regarding the needs in our life:
 - You have a need that God cannot meet
 - I am capable of meeting your needs
- He devalues the risk



Strategies of the Enemy

1. His focus is on our need

- Questions to consider:
 - What is the real need in my life?
 - What need is the devil playing on?
 - Why do I have these needs?
 - What have I done to allow this need to flourish?
 - Will an experience rooted in sin really fulfill my need?
 - **“Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her.” (2 Samuel 13:15)**
 - Can God fulfill my needs? If not, why?
 - Why do I believe the devil can?
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Strategies of the Enemy

2. An ungodly means to a godly end

- Sometimes Satan may seem to take us down a godly path but its means are contrary
 - **“Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, “Whoever says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God’— then he need not honor his father or mother. ’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.” (Matthew 15:3-6)**
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Strategies of the Enemy

3. An Urgent Opportunity

- Satan promotes impulsiveness
 - Act now, think later
- **“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.”**
(Genesis 3:6)

