

Common Temptation

Introduction: Satan is the great tempter and deceiver (Jn. 8:44). While “temptation” carries a definition, “to entice to do wrong by promise of pleasure or gain,” the overall idea behind the Greek word (*peirazetai*) is to put something to the test.

I. It's Common to All People

- A. Temptation is common to all of mankind, even to the spiritually mature. (1 Cor. 10:12, 13)
 - 1. Adam & Eve in the garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:1-6)
 - 2. David with Bathsheba.
 - 3. Barnabas was drawn away into hypocrisy with Peter. (Gal. 2:12-13)
 - 4. Simon the sorcerer shortly after his conversion. (Acts. 8:9-24)
 - 5. It's common among believers; preachers, teachers, deacons, elders, all saints.
- B. We hear about others getting caught up in temptation and think to ourselves, “That won't happen to me.” Consider 1 Cor. 10:12.
- C. The development of temptation is common. (Jas. 1:13-15)
- D. Temptation is so common that even Jesus confronted with it; yet He remained sinless. (Heb. 4:15-16; 2:18)

II. There's a Common Escape to Temptation

- A. Notice how Jesus dealt with temptation! (Matthew 4:1-11)
- B. How can we guard ourselves against temptation?
 - 1. Don't flirt with temptation! (Prov. 4:14-15)
 - 2. Stay on watch. (Mark 14:37-38)
 - 3. Look for the escape routes. (1 Cor. 10:13)
 - 4. Pray! Pray! Pray! (Matt. 6:9, 13)

Conclusion: Because temptation is so common, appealing to our personal desires, we are viable. We must not think so lightly of temptation, but always keep up our guard and look for God's way of escape.