

Five Things the Devil Does Not Want Us to Know

Matthew 6:13/Luke 11:4

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Introduction:

Every one of us faces temptation.

The devil knows what will be appealing to us.

He uses temptations to pervert us and weaken us.

He entices us to desire something that leads us away from safety and into a trap.

Desire becomes pregnant and gives birth to sin.

Sin brings forth death.

God does not want His children to be ensnared by evil but to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

Jesus instructed us to "Pray...in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil (or the evil one). For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen'" (Matthew 6:9-13).

Whatever temptations we face, we can "resist the devil" (James 4:7), "escape the defilements of the world" (2 Peter 2:20), and "overcome the world" (1 John 5:4) if we remember five things the devil does not want us to know.

I. Remember that we are part of a SPIRITUAL Kingdom.

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 that our weapons are not physical because we battle in a spiritual arena.

Tactics of this world do not work in spiritual war.

Divinely powerful weapons are given for the destruction of fortresses.

These weapons destroy "speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God."

God gives us the armor we need to fight this battle if we will but take it up and put it on (Ephesians 6:10-18).

We must find our strength in God's mighty power by putting "on the full armor of God."

The full armor of God enables us to resist and stand firm.

A soldier in this world needs a belt, body armor, shoes, a shield, a helmet, and a sword to fight.

A soldier fighting "the schemes of the devil" needs the truth, God's righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God as his equipment.

Every soldier needs to pray, for himself, for others, and for those making known the "mystery of the gospel."

When facing physical temptations, remembering we are citizens of a spiritual kingdom will help us keep focused.

II. Remember TEMPTATION is NOT SIN.

Our Savior faced temptations (Matthew 4:1 and following) yet he faced them without giving in and did not sin (Hebrews 4:15).

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

“After He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.”

Be cautious of being separated from people, hungry, or tired. Any vulnerability becomes a target.

When the devil comes to tempt you, he is looking to isolate and launch strategic attacks.

The tempter presented his first temptation (as recorded in Scripture), “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

Jesus triumphed, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, “MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.”

People need more than bread for their lives; they must feed on every word of God.

“Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, “HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU”; and “ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.”’”

Jesus triumphed again, by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16, “YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.”

The Israelites had put God to the test at Massah (Exodus 17:1-7) by demanding a miracle of him to quench their thirst.

Jesus would not try to force God to prove himself, nor should we test God in this way.

“Again, the devil took [Jesus] to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.’”

Jesus triumphed again, by quoting Deuteronomy 6:13 and 10:20, “YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.”

The Lord your God is the only one you should worship and fulfill religious duties to.

We cannot let tempting thoughts take root or make a safe harbor in our minds or in our hearts.

When such thoughts enter, we must push them out and not act on those thoughts.

Jesus responded quickly, precisely, and authoritatively.

The temptation stopped there; it had no opportunity to entice Jesus further, no ability to lead Him away, and certainly no time to give birth to sin.

When facing temptation, remember temptation is not sin; do not give ground, but rather stand firm against desires and enticements.

III. Remember that sin is NOT REALLY PLEASURABLE.

Advertisements, movies, and magazines all make sinful behavior appealing; Satan knows how to deceive.

These worldly things portray only the best side of their offerings; they never show the late-night sickness, the morning-after confusion, or the delayed effects on physical or mental health.

But whatever pleasure sin does produce is temporary, transient, or passing.

The pleasure wears off and leaves the sinner alone to deal with the consequences that come with such behavior.

The Hebrew writer reminds us that Moses chose rather to suffer mistreatment with God's people than to enjoy the "passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:25).

Temptation presents options, thus giving us a choice.

We must consider the outcome of the options.

Giving in to temptation will bring about suffering.

Standing firm against temptation will bring about mistreatment from others.

Looking for the reward, and thinking about the reward will help us see the best option.

Sin is a deal that is too good to be true; so, if we can remember that sin is not really pleasurable, we will be better equipped to resist and overcome temptation.

IV. Remember that God does NOT tempt.

Look at James 1:13-15, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

"God cannot be tempted by evil." Are you thankful that He is on our side in dealing with internal temptations to be resisted?

"He Himself does not tempt (entice) anyone."

God does not induce people to sin.

Our own desires pull us into sin, the things that John calls "all that is in the world" (1 John 2:15-17).

John says, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but from the world."

When facing temptation, remember that God does not tempt, therefore any temptation is from the world and presented by the devil (a word of Greek origin) or Satan (a word of Hebrew origin), both referencing one in the same being.

V. Remember that Temptation is POWERFUL.

Some will fall as we learn from David with Bathsheba, Solomon and all his wives, Adam and Eve, and so many others in recorded Biblical history.

One way to avoid falling into sinful behavior is to avoid situations that tempt us.

If David had been where he should have been, he would not have seen Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-5).

If Solomon had kept his heart wholly devoted to God, he would not have allowed his wives to turn "his heart away after other gods" (1 Kings 11:4).

If Eve had reenforced what was in her mind, God's real words, she would not have accepted the serpents denying of God's Word or eaten of the forbidden tree (Genesis 3:1-6).

Remember that temptation is powerful.

It is not to be toyed with.

It is not to be given a lingering thought or a second thought of consideration.

Application:

There are more observations for us when we face temptation:

Look for the escape route.

External temptations, tests, and trials are to be endured.

1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

The way of escape is the ability to endure the test.

Be courageous to resist internal temptations.

James 4:7 calls us to submit to God, to be obedient to Him.

We submit to or obey God by resisting or taking a stand against the devil and drawing near to God by having and maintaining a close relationship with God.

By accepting God’s authority and obeying Him, we can overcome the devil’s power and he will run away from us.

Use God’s word.

2 Timothy 2:15 instructs believers to be diligent with God’s Word.

Study it to know how to use it.

The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17).

Keep close to and lean on God.

In the spiritual battle, mercy and grace will be needed.

Help will be needed.

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

Associate with godly people.

God’s people love you and want to help you.

God’s people stimulate love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

They encourage (Hebrews 10:25).

Conclusion:

Temptation, the enticement to do evil, comes to us for different reasons.

Satan’s intent is to destroy people through sin leading to death and hell.

God allows temptations in the form of trials to bring about faith and patience.

As Paul explained, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

A blessing awaits the one who endures temptation.

James 1:12 says, “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

Do you love the Lord? Your love for the Lord will be tested by Satan—adversary.

If you persevere you will be approved and receive the crown of life.

Do you realize your need to draw near to God to avoid being devoured by the devil who slanders you (1 Peter 5:8)?

Your decision in this matter has a lasting effect on your eternal home.

The time to decide which side of the battle you will be on is soon, now—not later.

This is a personal decision, meaning no one else can make it for you.

But opportunities like the one you have tonight may be limited.

It will take courage to decide and make your decision known, but responding to Christ’s message will bring deliverance in more ways than one can imagine.