

Enduring Temptation

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.



Name some biblical characters that were tempted?

What are some of the ways you can resist, overcome, and ultimately endure temptations?

Why do we often tend to avoid rather than to resist temptation? Is avoidance the same as resisting temptation?

What can you do to start looking at temptations as opportunities for growth?

‘temptation’ refers to any trying experience that might conceivably weaken a person's hold on God but which, patiently endured, strengthens faith and character. Thus, the Christian is to ‘count it all joy’ when he falls ‘into divers temptations’ (James 1:2), that is, when he encounters difficulties that test the reality of his Christian experience.”*

Temptation Or Test?

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin – Acts 4:18-22

¹⁸So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” ²¹So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²²For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

Daniel 6:4-5, 16

⁴So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. ⁵Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.”

¹⁶So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”

Daniel 3:19-20

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-ego, *and cast them* into the burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 10:12-14

¹²Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision *refers to many days yet to come.*”

John 8:3-5

³Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, ⁴they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught^[b] in adultery, in the very act. ⁵Now Moses, in the law, commanded^[c] us that such should be stoned.^[d] But what do You say?”

2 Samuel 11:1-2

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

²Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman *was* very beautiful to behold.

Temptation is a part of life on earth. God allows us to be tempted to test our faith and to remind us that we must rely on Him to provide a way out. When we accept His way out, God helps us develop perseverance, which leads to spiritual maturity. God helps us persevere during temptation as we hide His Word in our hearts, praise Him, and totally surrender our lives to Him. When we focus on strengthening our relationship with God through developing good spiritual discipline, the end result is greater happiness as we enjoy a closer connection with Him.