

The second temptation pushed Jesus to uselessly display His power and position to gain instant fame. He resisted with the truth that we are not to put God to the test. There was nothing wise or fruit-bearing about jumping off the temple. God *could* save Him, but *should* He? In what ways can we put God to the test by doing things we needn't and hoping God will rescue us?

Satan's final temptation of Jesus is based on a lie. He was getting desperate. Were all the kingdoms of this world really Satan's to give?

REFLECT

How do you resist temptation? In what ways does the devil work on you, so to speak? How seriously do you take this battle?

RESPOND

Jesus made part of His model prayer, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Identify areas of temptation that face you and the evils that that you face in your life. Get together with another person of the same gender in your group and pray about these together, especially including this line of the Lord's prayer after each item mentioned.



Ephesians 6:14-15

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Our spiritual wars are won or lost on the battlefields of sin and temptation.

Romans 7:22-23

For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

1 Peter 2:11

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.



"with the belt of truth buckled around your waist..."

THE POISON OF ALL SIN IS CANDY-COATED IN THE LIE OF TEMPTATION.

John 8:43-45

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!



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“with the breastplate of righteousness in place...”

GOD ENDOWS US WITH HIS POWER SO WE CAN RESIST SIN.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to us all. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Corinthians 15:34

Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

James 1:13-15

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each of you is tempted when you are dragged away by your own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

“...with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

FREED FROM SIN, WE ARE EAGER TO DO GOOD.

Romans 13:11-14

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

C.S. Lewis in *The Screwtape Letters*

You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is the edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing...Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts. Your affectionate uncle, Screwtape

John Owen

Remember whenever temptation surprises you and makes an entry into your soul, that you have all the resources, with all speed, to repair the breach. Close up that passage into which the waters have begun to flood...

WINNING AGAINST SINNING

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

Have you ever kicked a bad habit? How did you do it?

Have you ever known someone or even helped someone overcome serious temptation and sin in their lives? What did you learn from that experience?

What principle, insight, idea or quote was meaningful to you from this week's sermon?

READ

Matthew 4:1-11 and/or Luke 4:1-13

These forty days in the wilderness were Jesus' crucible of preparation before starting His earthly ministry. Have you ever endured a time of intense preparation before starting something new?

The devil is called the tempter. What does it say to us that even Jesus was not exempt from being tempted by the devil?

The first temptation Jesus faced was a test of what really sustained Him. Was bread what he needed most? Compare his answer to the devil to what he says in John 4:34.

In what ways do you live "on every word that comes from the mouth of God"? How can we do that even more?