

The gospel according to
MATTHEW

Part 8

THE TEMPTER'S WAY

2 CORINTHIANS 2 : 11

...so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

1. LOOK TO JESUS!

Hebrews 2 : 17 - 18

Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4 : 14 - 16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of

Hebrews 4 : 14 - 16

grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. The devil would love to get you to use your gifts for yourself rather than for God's glory and purposes.

[Matthew 4 : 3 – 4]

A. He introduces doubt against the clear pronouncements of God

—Matthew 4 : 3

“If”—This is My Beloved Son

—Genesis 3 : 1

“Did God really say...?”

2 : 16 -17

B. He incites dissatisfaction.

—Matthew 4 : 3

Why be hungry any longer?

A plea for impatience & self-will

—Genesis 3 : 5

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

**C. Don't have a narrow selfish
focus as you serve Almighty God.**

3. He sends an all out assault against the Word.

—Matthew 4 : 6

Misuse of Scripture

—Genesis 3 : 4

“You will not surely die.”

4. He offers the easy way out . . . later on, it's terrible

—Matthew 4 : 8 - 9

Don't go the way of the cross
(God's way). . . It's painful,
traumatic, and difficult.

Enjoy power the easy way.

5. His attacks are not naïve, simple, or easy. He is viciously energized in an all out effort to defeat his victim.

—Parallel passage Luke 4:13

In Greek, could read like this:

“When the devil had ended every possible kind of temptation, he departed...”

5. His attacks are not naïve, simple, or easy. He is viciously energized in an all out effort to defeat his victim.

—1 Peter 5 : 8

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

6. His plan is to tempt you at just the right time.

—Luke 4 : 13

...he departed from him until *an opportune time*.

—Ephesians 6 : 13

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in *the evil day*, and having done all, to stand firm.

**THERE IS NO FREEDOM FROM
TEMPTATION IN THIS LIFE.**

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

1. Accept the truth that you are responsible for the choices that you make.

— “Satan cannot do more than suggest, only the tempted person can do the wrong act.” - *Augustine*

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

1. Accept the truth that you are responsible for the choices that you make.

— You can't stop the crow from flying over your head, but you *can* keep him from building a nest in your hair.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

2. Remember: temptation will always be an attempt from the devil or your own evil desires to get you to do what is contrary to the Word of God.

— “God tests you to bring out your best. The devil tempts you to bring out your worst.” - *Wiersbe*

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

**3. You are commanded to pray
that you would not fall into
temptation.**

— Matthew 6 : 13 ...and lead us not
into temptation.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

**3. You are commanded to pray
that you would not fall into
temptation.**

— Matthew 26 : 41

Watch and pray that you may not
enter into temptation. The spirit indeed
is willing, but the flesh is weak.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

4. Recall the promise of 1 Cor 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

- It's not that you can't, it's that you won't
- If you won't, what you are really saying is obedience to Christ is so hard that He's not worth it. My way must prevail.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

**5. Be sober, be alert and
remember that you are not
alone.**

—1 Peter 5: 8 - 9

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

6. DO AS JESUS DID! USE THE SCRIPTURES!

—In Matthew 4 : 1 – 13, no special resource is given to Jesus throughout the forty days.

—He faces temptation just as you must
...with the Scriptures.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

6. DO AS JESUS DID! USE THE SCRIPTURES!

—with each temptation, Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy

—not just quoting Scripture, but knowing when Scripture is misused

—we need to understand the importance of the *whole* counsel of God

2 Timothy 1 : 7

...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Philippians 4 : 6 - 8

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,

Philippians 4 : 6 - 8

whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable, if there is any
excellence, if there is anything worthy of
praise, think about these things.

2 Corinthians 10 : 5

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...