

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Hebrews 2:18 And now He can help those who are tempted, because He Himself suffered and was tempted.

TEMPTATION

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Father God, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, I thank You, praise You, and bless You Lord, for Your Divine and Holy Presence. May we learn how to stay in Your Presence through trusting in Your Holy Spirit. Father, please teach us how to be more thankful for all Your Love, Grace, and Mercy that You bestow upon us. Lord, may we all embrace Your Holy Trinity now and forevermore! Father, I ask this prayer in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Hallelujah..... Amen.

This month's message has to do with a subject of grave spiritual concern. That subject I am referring to is temptation! The word temptation has to do with the act of tempting; enticement or allurements. Temptation also has to do with a state of being tempted, especially to evil. As human beings, we all have inherited temptation to sin, from our original parents, Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve had everything going for themselves, but that serpent Satan had other plans. Because of their fall from grace in the Garden of Eden, we live in a fallen world full of temptations. Temptation comes from a variety of sins. Sins like pride, lust, fornication, lying, stealing, cheating, murder, coveting, etc. All sins according to the Holy Bible get their roots from temptation. The devil that tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden also tempted Jesus in the desert. Satan is a real being, a created but rebellious fallen angel, and not a symbol or idea. He constantly fights against God and those who follow and obey God. Jesus was a prime target for the devil's temptations. Satan had succeeded with Adam and Eve, and hoped to succeed with Jesus as well. Knowing and obeying God's Word, is an effective weapon against temptation. God's full Armor of Righteousness, is the only defense we really have! The Lord says in **Ephesians 6:17: Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.** Jesus Himself used Scripture to counter Satan's attacks, and so should we. But to use it effectively we must have faith in God's promises, because Satan also knows Scripture and is adept at twisting it to suit his purpose. Obeying the Scriptures is more important than simply having a verse to quote. So read and study God's Word daily and apply His Word to your life, so your sword will always be sharp and ready to defend yourself.

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted, being God's Son?

First temptation is a part of the human experience. For Jesus to be fully human, for Him to understand us completely He had to face temptation.

The Lord said in **Hebrews 4:15**: **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One whom was tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin.**

Second, Jesus had to undo Adam's work. Adam, though created perfect, gave in to the temptation and passed sin on to the whole human race.

Jesus by contrast, resisted Satan. His victory offers salvation to all of Adam's descendants. However, Satan may tempt us to doubt Christ's true identity! He knows that once we begin to question whether or not Jesus is God, it's far easier to get us to do what He wants. Times of questioning can help us sort out our beliefs, strengths, and our faith, but those times can also be dangerous. If we are dealing with doubt, try to realize that we are especially vulnerable to temptation. Even as you search for answers, protect yourself by meditating on the unshakable truths of God's Word. Often we are tempted not by our weaknesses, but through our strengths.

The devil tempted Jesus where He was strong. Jesus had the power over stones, the kingdom of the world, and even the angels, and Satan wanted Him to use that Power without regard to His mission on earth.

When we give in to the devil and wrongly use our strengths, we become proud and self reliant. Trusting in our own powers, we feel little need for God. To avoid this trap, we must realize that all our strengths are God's gifts to us, and dedicate those strengths to His service. Another little trick the devil uses is persuading us to take action for the wrong reasons or at the wrong time. The fact that something is not wrong in itself does not mean that it is good for you at a given time. Many people sin by attempting to fulfill legitimate desires outside of God's Will or ahead of His timetable. First ask, is the Holy Spirit leading me to do this? Or is Satan trying to get me off track? The devil arrogantly hoped to succeed in his rebellion against God by diverting Jesus from His mission and winning his worship. "This world is mine, not God's," he was saying," and if you hope to do anything worth while here, you better recognize that fact." Jesus did not argue with Satan about who owns the world, but Jesus refused to validate Satan's claim by worshiping him. Jesus knew that He would redeem the world through giving up His life on the cross, not through making an alliance with a corrupt angel!

Well my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, may we all take this time to reflect on our sins. When I say reflect, I mean not only reflecting on our sins, but the temptations that cause our sins. Sin can only be a sin, if we fall prey to its temptation. Yes Jesus was tempted, but he never sinned. Why after being tempted was Jesus still sinless? Christ Jesus was sinless, because instead of sinning, Jesus was on a mission from God the Father. His mission on earth was to help us all through His teachings and examples, not to sin. Jesus is, the pure lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! One more closing thought. We all have sins and temptations from our fallen natures. So let's try not to let these flaws in our nature, be an excuse for us to sin. So the next time that little evil voice in your head tries to tempt you to sin, call on God's Holy Spirit immediately, to help you to fight your temptations. Without believing and staying close to God's daily Presence, we are all doomed to fail. Believing in God's Promises through daily prayer, faith, and Bible study, is the only way to combat these ongoing temptations! **Let us pray:** Abba Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, thanks again for this month's inspired message. May Your continual message of Faith, Hope, and Love, fill the minds and hearts of Your people. Lord, may we all come to know and grow in Your Knowledge and Wisdom. Father, please lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from **evil!**.....Amen.

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JESUS CALLING

By Sarah Young

COME TO ME with your plans held in abeyance. Worship Me in spirit and truth, allowing My Glory to permeate your entire being. Trust Me enough to let Me guide you through this day, accomplishing My purposes in My timing. Subordinate your myriad plans to My Master Plans. I am sovereign over every aspect of your life. The challenge continually before you is to trust Me and search for My way through each day. Do not blindly follow your habitual route or you will miss what I have prepared for you!!

PROVERBIAL WISDOM FOR FEBRUARY 2013

Proverbs 16:17; The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life.

Proverbs 14:31; He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

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THE MINISTRY'S DAILY PRAYER LIST

Please join hands in daily prayer for; Candy Kania, George Slawter, George Deutch and Family, Jonathan Baker and Family, Joe Lakes, Al Wilson and Family, Jeanine Carlson, Bob Lambert, Sal Taloma, Joy Valerie, Denise Lathrop, Anne Marie Hess, Edward Young, Bill Schlupp, Christine Palma and Family, Rose Robinson, Patty Palma, Janelle Owens, John Aquilino, Nick Samma, Allen Saline,

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Also a special prayer for; the sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, The hopeless, the lost souls, the broken hearted, the lame, the godless, The weary, the angry, the hatred, the violence, the wars, the genocides, The unrest, the poor in spirit, the greed, the corruption, the fornications, The selfishness, the prideful, the coveting, etc.

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A closing prayer: Father, may we all be thankful for our faith and changed lives. Lord, please give us a deeper spiritual understanding of Your Will. Father, please let us know from Your Spirit, what You want us to do for You. Lord, please help us live to serve You, and You alone. Lord, please bless us with more of Your Knowledge and Wisdom. Father, please give us the strength and endurance to run the race set before us. Lord, please fill us up with Your Joy and thankfulness! Father I ask this in Jesus name...Amen.

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