

The Easy Bible Truth



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Companion 
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Temptation,

There is a current belief which suggests that temptations are of Divine origin and it is impossible to resist them. This is a very false belief which gives a wrong conception of God. If you were to sit down and go right through the Bible from cover to cover, you will not find anywhere that God tempts men and women to do evil. This is exactly what this theory presupposes, for as the trials and temptations are God sent, (and this cannot be denied) if men were not to resist them, then it would amount to the fact that God would literally be inviting men and women to sin. This is ever so far from the mind of God, for He wills not the death of any man, but rather He wishes that all would come unto Him and repent, as all are in need of repentance. Ezekiel 18:31-32, 33:8-11. We concede the fact that God does permit or allow for temptation; in fact He often places us in such a position where we may be tempted primarily to see if we are going to remain faithful to Him. But He is always there to strengthen us, and you can be quite sure that there is a limit to the temptations which He requires men and women to undergo, Read 1st Corinthians 10:13.

God knows the capacity as well as the capability of each person and He has never yet asked anyone to go through more than they could endure. You may be thinking of many faithful men who had to endure even till death which would make a fallacy of the point, but the Apostle Paul who was inspired by God to write these words endured untold sufferings and trials but still he counted it an honour that he was privileged to go through such things so that he might eventually win Christ. This meant far more to him than all earthly possessions. 2nd Corinthians 11:23-30. There is no doubt that God was the instrument here, testing Paul to see if he would remain steadfast to the things to which he had vowed. This applies equally as much to all who have suffered for the sake of keeping God's Word sure.

There are two ways in which a person can be tempted. The first is from within, and the second is external. If either is yielded to, then that becomes sin, and sin when it is finished brings forth death. There is absolutely **no** sin whatever in being **tempted**. There was no sin in the beginning by Adam and Eve just being tempted, but sin lay in the fact that they actually submitted to the temptation. They were tempted by an external tempter, but the desire came from within them. What they should have said, and what should also be a guide to all of us when confronted by temptation is expressed in the words of Jesus when he spoke so harshly to Peter, "get thou behind me Satan." Satan as you know is an adversary, and Peter was saying things very much adverse to the plan of God.

A very striking example of temptation in the Old Testament was the trial or test that God put Abraham to when He commanded him to offer his own son. Because of the Promises which God had made to Abraham and for them to be fulfilled, he knew in his own heart that God "would not try him more than he was able to bear," and that with a temptation make a way of escape. Abraham was abounding in confidence when he assured his waiting servants that he would return with his son Isaac. Genesis 22:5. The trial of his faith was wrought through patience (James 1:3-5) and this attribute should be foremost in the armour of a true disciple or follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without patience no victory over sin can hope to be won. Read Romans 5:3-4.

External temptations often come from friends or workmates, who may ask you do something which you feel in your very own heart that it is wrong in the sight of God to do. This is what temptation really is; but you can rest assured that if you are prepared to do your part, then God will always find a way of escape just as He did for Abraham. By not following the temptation, you will find out in the long run that you will probably be admired by your friends for the stand which you may have taken.

Never think you are alone in temptation. Jesus who is our pattern to follow was tried and tempted in "all points as we are," and never once did he submit to the workings of sin, and the reason for this was that his mind was full of God's Word. In his temptation in the wilderness, he had an answer; a ready answer for each proposition which was put to him and that only came from his constant meditation and study of the Scripture. Matthew 4.

Now if Jesus is our example and we use him as a guide as to just how far we can go in trying to please God, then at all times look to him and, he will be there to present your pleas and petitions to God. Do you ever wonder why God wants to try us? If you do, then the answer lies in the fact that He loves you. He does not want us to be weak and feeble minded creatures, but rather the reverse, for He wants us to develop a character well pleasing to Him. Character can only be developed by overcoming temptation. Have you ever thought where Christ's victory would have been if there had not been any temptation? And to bring the matter home so very close to us, where will ours be if the road to the Kingdom of God is smooth and rosy without any obstructions? You don't go round obstructions, but rather do you remove them.