

What is the source of temptations?

James 4:1-2 gives us a clear description: "Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask."

1John 2:16: "For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world."

Can anyone blame God for being tempted?

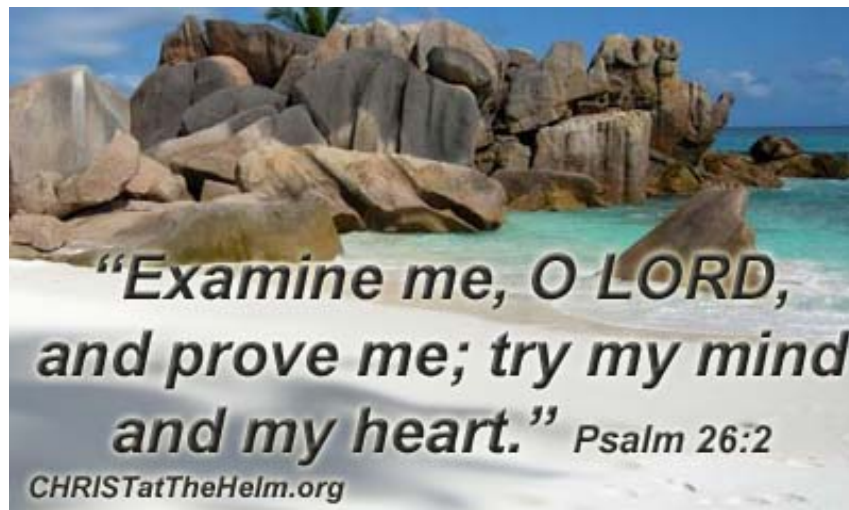
James 1:13-14: "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

What's more?

1Tim. 6:9-10: "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds* of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Do I understand that temptations start within my own heart, in lusting after the flesh and the world?

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Temptations present a challenge to our faith, and require a determined heart to resist. What are those challenges?

Ephesians 6:12: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Gal 5:17: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

Where can we look for power to resist?

Hebrews 4:15: "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin."

1Cor 10:13: "No 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."

Titus 2:13-14: "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works."

Will I stand with Christ against the rulers of darkness?

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What are the solutions to resist temptations?

1Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith."

Romans 6:12-13: "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

Romans 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Titus 2:11-12: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

And the words of Jesus in Mark 14:38: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh is weak."

Then, let's do as Rom 13:14 says, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

How determined and steadfast am I to resist the devil when tempted?

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Where do we draw the strength and the power to resist temptations?

Heb. 4:15-16: "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Heb. 2:18: "For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."

1Peter 4:1-2: "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

Now, here's the invitation of Jesus to receive His help:

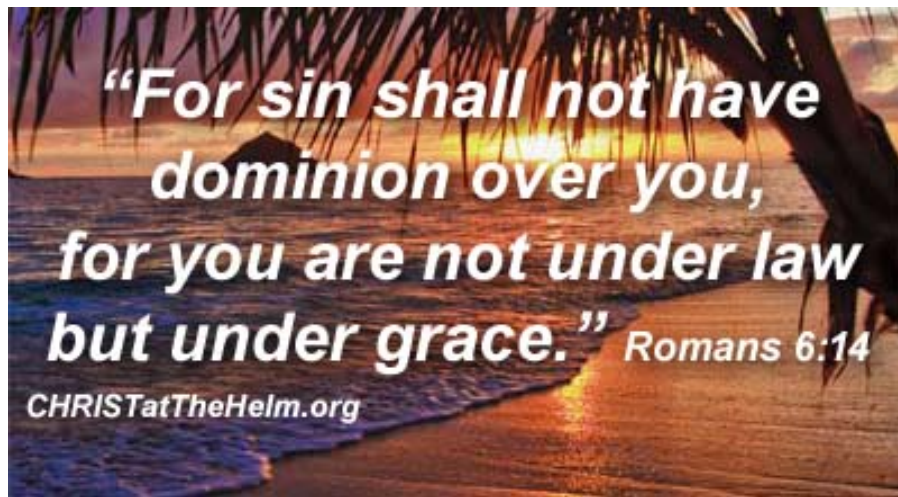
Mat. 11:28-30: "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

Why is the Lord sufficient to help us in temptations?

Philip 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Do I draw spiritual strength from the Lord in seeking Him from the heart, to resist temptations and live to His glory?

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What should our focus be in order to resist temptations?

Hebrews 12:1-2: "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Philippians 4:8: "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Gal. 5:16: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

What's more?

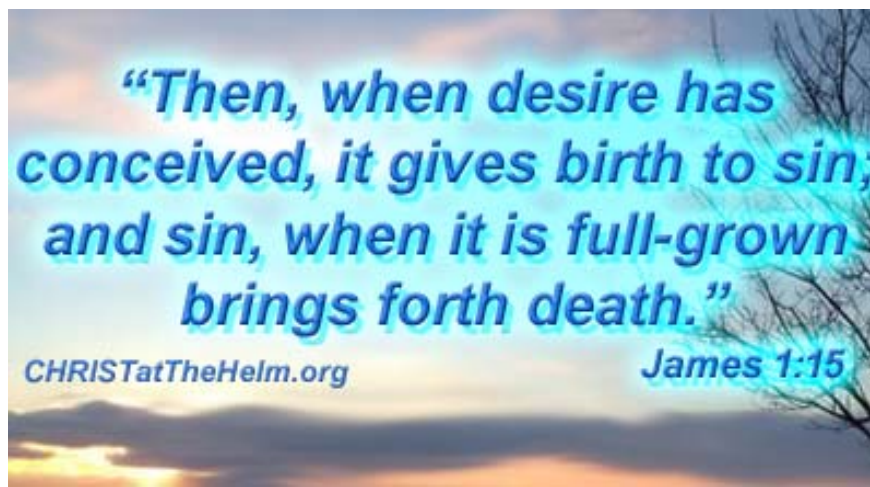
Gal. 6:1: "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

Why?

Gal. 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Will I set my focus on Christ and reject the world's temptations?

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What happens when we willfully won't resist temptations and give in to the flesh?

James 4:17: "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin."

2Corinthians 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

2Peter 2:9: "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."

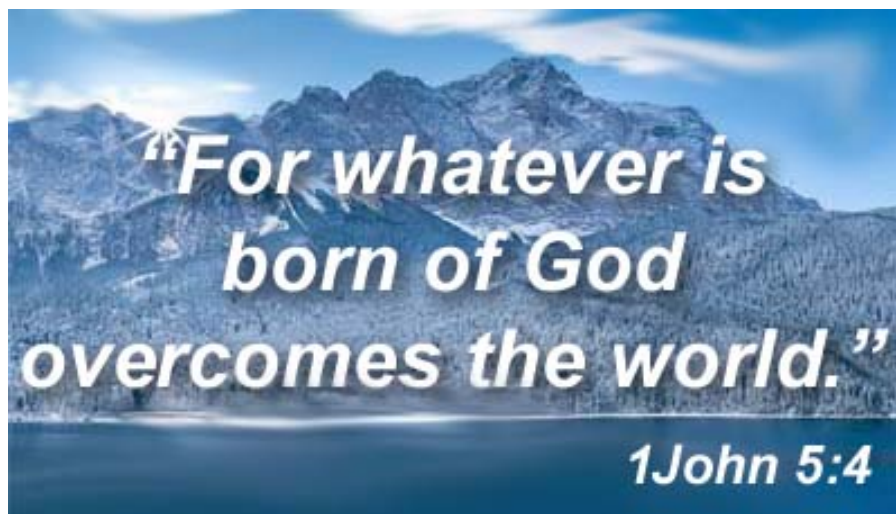
Galatians 6:7: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Hebrews 10:26-27: "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment."

Finally, Jesus warns us in Matthew 7:20-23: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Do I realize the seriousness of giving in to temptations?

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Who are those who overcome the world?

1John 5:5: "Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Revelation 12:11: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

1Corinthians 15:57-58: "But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

How does the Lord reward those who resist temptations?

James 1:12: "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."

Why?

Romans 8:31: "If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?"

1John 4:4: "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

And the glorious promise from God to those who reject temptation to overcome the world and live to follow Christ is:

Revelation 3:21: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

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