

“Escaping Temptations”

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If God is real, then why is there so much evil in the world???
 Have you ever heard someone ask that question, or maybe you asked it???

The funny thing is people try to blame God for all the evil stuff in our world, when it's not his fault. God doesn't make evil, and He doesn't lead people to do evil things. God tempts no one, and God never gives in to temptation.

James 1:13-15 NIV

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; [14] but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. [15] Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

ASK directly:

"Student's Name," Who's evil desire try's to lead you into sin???

They should answer mine...

ASK:

Who's evil desire try's to lead me into sin???

(point at self)

My own evil desires are what try to destroy me.

Obviously God isn't the one that tempts me. He hates sin, and wants us to live a holy life. But what about the devil???

The devil can't make me sin. The devil wants me to sin. The devil hopes that I sin, the devil and his demons will even try to put temptations in front of me, but **the devil can't make me do anything.** The devil has **NO power over a Christian!!!**

Example: Ask a volunteer that LOVES ice cream to come forward. Have them sit and put a big bowl of ice cream in front of them. Tell them how good it is. Explain them how much they would like it if they only try it. That nothing compares to a good bowl of "Cookies and Crème." It looks so good, doesn't it??? Go ahead eat it.

The POINT: I am like the devil. The ice cream is like temptation. I can't make you eat the ice-cream. I only suggest it, and it's up to you if you do it or not. It's also up to you if you sin or not.

Let the volunteer go back to their seat. Explain, eating ice-cream isn't a sin, unless you're on a diet, go ahead.

1. NO ONE Can MAKE YOU SIN

Take responsibility for your own actions. No one else, not your friends, not your enemies, not even the devil can make you sin. If you sin, YOU are the one to blame. It is by our own evil desires that we are led into sin.

The world will tell you the opposite. People will try to make you believe that you should do whatever feels good, but that's a lie. If you always follow your own desires, then you'll be led right into sin. Not all desires are evil, but some are. Be on guard so that you don't follow evil desires. Because sin leads to death.

2. SIN Leads to DEATH

James 1:15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Sin leads to spiritual death. Sin will ruin you if you give in to it constantly. The more you give in to sin, the easier it is, and before long sin will rule your life.

BUT THERE IS HOPE!!!!

1 Cor. 10:13 NIV

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. 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 stand up under it.

3. Remember the WAY OUT

God promises that you won't be tempted more than you can bear. There is a way to beat temptations!!! There is a **WAY OUT**. **The best way to deal with temptations is to avoid them.**

A. FLEE EVIL, PURSUE GOOD

2 Tim. 2:22 NIV

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

If you don't want to fall into temptations, then stay as far from temptations as possible. For example, I never understand why someone that has a problem with drinking, and is trying to get sober, goes to the bar to get some chicken wings. If someone has a problem with drinking, it would make sense for them to stay away from the bar.

But as teenagers you better not be drinking. What are your temptations? What about LUST. You know you shouldn't look at porn, and so you probably don't. But Guys, if you have a problem with lust, should you be watching TV shows where the women aren't wearing enough clothes??? **NO WAY!!!** You are giving in to evil desires, and that will lead to sin. **AVOID IT AT ALL COSTS.**

What about boyfriends and girlfriends. You have this desire in your heart to be with a member of the opposite sex. It's natural, and it's not a bad thing to want a companion in the right

time. But if you aren't going to marry someone, than don't waist your time playing games.

Illustration:

I waited until I was 18 to even start dating, and you know what, that was still too soon. I made some mistakes I wish I could undue. But when I married Tara, I was a virgin, and I'm proud of that!!! You have the opportunity to make good choices that will help you to have an AWESOME marriage some day. For me dating was a temptation, I knew that if I dated I might get too attached, and I might fall into sin. So I chose not to date, until I felt like I was old enough to get married. I set the age for me at 18. It kept me from a lot of trouble at a young age.

For you maybe the temptation is to listen to music that doesn't have good lyrics. Then you can make a commitment to avoid that kind of music, and find Christian bands to listen to. Whatever it is you struggle with, do your best to avoid temptation. Instead pursue the things of God.

Life is not always easy, and you can't always avoid temptations, but remember 1 Corinthians said, "**God will always give you a way out.**" Even if you are stuck in a tempting situation, God will help you to get out. Remember if you give in, it's nobodies fault but your own.

B. Pray for God's Help

Every day when you start your day, ask God to help you to flee temptations and live for HIM.