

Doctrine of Temptation

1. The word tempt is used in Scripture without sin. The Hebrew word *nachah* (naw-saw) and the Greek *ekpeiraza* (ekpirad'zo) mean "to test, to attempt, to try thoroughly".
 - *Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.*

2. There is no sin in the act of temptation. When the soul responds with an inappropriate attitude or action, then sin is associated with the act of being tested.
 - *Exodus 17:1 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? Wherefore do ye tempt the LORD...7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?*

3. Ironically enough King Ahaz was rebuked because he did not tempt the Lord in the sense of testing Him to validate His promise.
 - *Isaiah 7:12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. 13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

4. The prophets charged with sin those who tempted God by a wrong spirit.
 - *Malachi 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? 14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? 15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.*

5. The single greatest historical example of people testing God in an inappropriate manner was the Exodus Generation.

6. As men tempted the Father, men and devils tempted the Son.
 - *Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? (Mark 12:15; Luke 10:5; 20:23)*
 - *Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Mark 1:13; Luke 2)*
7. In like manner the Holy Spirit can also be tempted.
 - *Acts 5:9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.*
8. One way that men tempt God is by placing legalistic burdens upon the brethren.
 - *Acts 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*
9. Married people face sensual temptations when they are not ready to honor each other with intimacy.
 - *1 Corinthians 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.*
10. Physical sickness and even death has been visited upon those who tempt Christ.
 - *1 Corinthians 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.*
11. Christians may tempt Christ by doubting His providence and goodness, and by presuming to prescribe to Him how He should send the necessary supplies, and what they should be.
12. Because the Exodus Generation tempted God ten times He moved to exclude them from entering the Land of Promise.
 - *Hebrews 3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.*
 - *Numbers 14:22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:*

13. God is tempted when provisions are asked for which are not appropriate.

- *Psalm 78:18 And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.*

14. When men tempt God the hand of God is limited.

- *Psalm 78:41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.*

15. When men tempt God He is provoked to anger.

- *Psalm 78:56 Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: 57 But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. 58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.*

16. The temptation to do evil will never be greater than the capacity to resist.

- *1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

17. One way to become the target of temptation is failure to restore an enemy brother to fellowship in a spirit of meekness.

- *Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

18. Satan seeks to tempt the saints in order to destroy any progress of spirituality.

- *1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain.*

19. Because Christ knew temptation He is able to comfort others.

- *Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.*

20. The saints of the Old Testament era were tempted to surrender their faith.

- *Hebrews 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

21. God does not tempt men to sin though He does test men for the purpose of approval.

- *James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

22. James 1:14, 15 explain the true origin of that which leads to sin in the soul.

- *James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*