

Course Title: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TESTS & TEMPTATIONS

Goal of This Lesson: Understand the difference between a test and a temptation.

Note: Knowledge is key, but without action, renders it powerless. Applied knowledge is power. Take action on what you will learn, and you will grow.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(James 1:12-15 ESV) Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

(Proverbs 17:3 ESV) The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.

Sometimes it's tough to tell whether we're facing a test or a temptation.

- Struggles don't always come with a label
- Struggles don't always carry a clue of its source
- Struggles don't always tell you its purpose

And so many times in our walk with God it is difficult to tell the difference between a test and a temptation.

We get frustrated in the process because, when we are tested, we feel like we're being tempted. When we are tempted, we may feel like we are being tested.

- In order to fully understand the difference, we must know the purpose as well.

Tests and temptations are designed to reveal both our strength and weakness.

This type of testing is biblical. Both God and Satan are responsible for our tests and our temptations. Please understand that both tests and temptations have a completely different purpose.

- Both the test and the temptation have completely different authors.

The biggest difference between tests and temptations are the ones who project them into your life.

- God tests us, and satan tempts us. Satan tempts us hoping we fail.

Biblical Clarity

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(1 Peter 5:8 ESV) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- Our adversary is out to tempt us to fail, to fall, and to flounder in our faith.

Temptation is the pressure to give in to ungodly influences that lead you away from God and into sin. It is not a sin to be tempted. It is the giving in to the temptation that causes us to sin. Temptation is never a test of faith. Temptation is always a reason to falter in our faith.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(Matthew 26:41 NET) Stay awake and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- Satan understands and knows that our flesh is weak.

This lesson will help you to distinguish between tests and temptations.

The Challenge

You must realize that temptation will always challenge the Word of God. Satan presented to Eve, in the garden, an alternative to God's word.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(Genesis 3:2-5 NET) The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die, for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good and evil."

The serpent tempted Eve to go against the Word of God in order to challenge what God has said. That is why it is urgently important for you to hold on to the promises in the bible. It's God's Word.

And when the enemy comes along and says it won't happen, and it won't come to pass, then you need to run from the temptation of his lies.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(John 8:44 ESV) You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The Father of Lies will always try to appeal to your emotions and intellect. He will always put a twist on the Word to deceive you into making sense. If it's not all truth, then it's all a lie.

No matter how hard anyone tries to change it, or your opinion towards it, the Word of God is forever settled in heaven (Psa 119:89). Nobody can alter or change it, no matter how good it sounds.

Responding to Temptation

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(Matthew 4:1-11 ESV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

The devil tempted, but Jesus met every temptation with the Word by stating "It is written". Your weapon against temptation is always the Word of God. Satan has no power over you when the Word is your weapon. It is written that the enemy will come in like a flood, but it also states that the Lord will raise up a standard against it.

When the enemy tells you that God doesn't care, just turn to the scriptures because It is written!

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(Luke 12:7 ESV) Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

When the enemy says there is no hope, once again you can turn to the written Word of God and read the following passages.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(Lamentations 3:21-24 NKJV) This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. [Through] the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. [They are] new every morning; Great [is] Your faithfulness. "The LORD [is] my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Please understand that for every temptation to challenge God's Word, there is a word to challenge satan's attack as well.

We can trust in the Word of the Lord. Temptation will challenge God's word, and it will always present itself even when we are not engaged in spiritual battle.

- David's greatest temptation came when he was disengaged from warfare.

David stood on the balcony of the palace when the scriptures declare that he should have been actively involved in the battle of the Kings. He was at the wrong place and time.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(2 Samuel 11:1-2 ESV) In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

- Most of temptations that will come our way are a result of us being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Whenever we become disengaged in battle, our minds, spirits, and our desires, shift from the spiritual to the carnal.

David should have been in the middle of the battle. If David was where he should have been, he would have never seen Bathsheba. His mind would have been on war, and not a woman.

Staying in Your Lane

When we stay in our lane (battle), then all will be well (Gen 4:7), but if step out of our lane, then we are surely looking for trouble.

Be very alert to the fact, that when temptations challenge your faith, you should rise and pay attention to where you are spiritually.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(James 1:14-15 NLT) Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

- Internal struggles with sin, our flesh, can sometimes be the main cause of temptation.
- Lack of prayer and lack of reading the Word of God brings a lack of faith.

We must stay connected to the battle, we must stay in the fight. Temptations will come, and know that when are being tempted, is not a sin.

Sin is what happens when someone gives in to temptation. Over and over, the Bible challenges us to resist temptation and the Lord gives us what we need to overcome the temptations that we face.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(Romans 8:37 NET) No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!

(James 1:12 NLT) God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

(1 John 4:4 NKJV) 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.

Temptations are of the devil and of our own personal desires. They are meant to destroy us.

You never find God tempting us or placing us in a situation with our failure as His goal as declared in the following passage.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(James 1:13 ESV) Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

God does not tempt us but God does test us. Maybe a better way to say is that He entrusts us. What's the difference? Temptation is someone being enticed or allured to sin. The Lord will never trick us or trap us. He does not set anyone up for failure. He wants us all to be more than conquerors through Him.

- The Lord will not tempt us with sin because He is good and no evil is found in Him.
- The Lord never rewards our good deeds and actions with sin either.
- The Lord came to destroy sin (1 John 3:8).

Testing, on the other hand, is God trusting us to make the right choice.

Making Right Choices

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passages

(Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NKJV) "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore *choose life*, that both you and your descendants may live; "that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He [is] your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

He gave the Israelites full disclosure. He gave them a choice. He also gave them the answer and the reasons for it. He wanted them to choose correctly and entrusted them to make the right choice.

The Lord also gave them an awesome promise if they chose life. If they chose the correct path, he promised a blessing that goes beyond the individual, and it becomes a promise for your future generations to come.

Our decision not only affects us personally, but those around us as well. Our decisions are very important and the Lord is very interested as well. That's why God is going to test us.

The test is not meant to kill us, but to anoint us, and strengthen us. It's a measurement of where we are at, our decisions and responses, our actions or inactions. It reveals to us and to the Lord where we need to improve in our choices of life.

- You cannot have a testimony without a test.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "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.

While temptation tries to lead us to sin. With the right choices, a test will lead us to Jesus. The Lord tests us, to help us understand our weaknesses.

Conclusion

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NKJV) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10)

The Apostle Paul was saying that he has a testimony because he's been tested and tried, and he made it. In other chapters, Paul described all of his qualifications and achievements. Those things did not help him one bit when he was beaten several times, shipwrecked, bitten by a poisonous snake, talked bad about, and rejected by fellow Jews.

Paul made up his mind that regardless of his strengths, whether going through tests or temptations, he can be strong in Christ who strengthens him.

We have a testimony because we understand that, the one who gives us the test is also the one giving us the strength to make it through test.

Don't be mad at the test, but rejoice in the fact that God trusted you enough to be tested.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(Job 1:8 ESV) And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

- Rejoice in the fact that the test has been given to make you stronger.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(1 Peter 1:7 NLT) These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold--though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

- Tests are made to challenge us to grow.

Everyone that's ever been through an education system knows that when a teacher gives a test, they stand back and allow the students to put their best effort forward based on their learning and experience. The results of that test says much about the understanding of the student and the teacher will know where the students need to make improvements.

- Jesus was called a teacher.

Reading Assignment: Please Read the Following Passage

(1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT) Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad--for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

When you learn the difference between a test and a temptation, you will have a better perspective about your approach. It's not always easier, but you are better informed and well equipped to handle the battle at hand.

The stronger the battle, the sweeter the victory. When you learn to truly trust in the Lord, you will find that you are not alone and have been partners with Him the whole time!

**Assignment
WORKSHEET****Student Name:** _____
Print Full First Name Middle Initial Print Full Last Name**Church Name:** _____ **Pastor:** _____**Date:** _____

Take your time to review the lesson before you provide your answers.

1. According to the lesson, sometimes it's tough to tell whether we're facing what?

2. According to the lesson, it is not a sin to be tempted. What is it that causes us to sin?

3. According to the lesson, the Father of Lies will always try to appeal to what two things?

4. According to the lesson, you are of more value than many sparrows. What verse is this found at?

5. According to the lesson, whenever we become disengaged in battle, our minds, spirits, and desires, shift from what?

6. According to the lesson, what is it that happens when someone gives in to temptation?

7. Please fill in the blanks. According to the lesson, blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the _____ of life.

Please select the best answer below:

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| A. jewel | D. crown |
| B. power | E. love |
| C. hope | F. patience |

8. According to the lesson, According to the lesson, the serpent _____ Eve to go against the Word of God in order to _____ what God has said”

9. According to the lesson, the devil tempted, but Jesus met every temptation with the Word, and that your weapon against temptation is always the _____.

Please select the best answer:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A. Lamp of the Word | D. Word of Faith |
| B. Lamp to my feet | E. Word of God |
| C. Word of Truth | F. Word of Hope |

10. According to the lesson, God gave the Israelites a choice with hopes that they chose correctly.

Please select the best answer: ☐ True ☐ False

11. Please fill in the blanks. _____, while _____ tries to lead us to sin. With the right _____, a test will _____ us to Jesus?

12. According to the lesson, when you learn to truly trust in the Lord, you will find that you are not alone and have been _____ with Him the whole time.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| A. walking | D. faithful |
| B. partners | E. satisfied |
| C. consulting | F. hopeful |

Congratulations on completing this lesson. While some lessons may seem harder than others, you must always study to show yourself approved unto God, and reveal to others, what God has given you.
