

# Temptation

**Step 4** – We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Temptation is something we are all familiar with. As Christians we typically go to what we call the beginning, with Adam and Eve as our reference point for temptation.

## What is temptation<sup>1</sup>?

- **Temptation** is the desire to perform an action that one may enjoy immediately or in the short term but will probably later regret for various reasons: legal, social, psychological (including feeling guilt), health-related, economic, etc. In the context of religion, temptation is the inclination to sin. Temptation also describes the coaxing or inducing a person into committing such an act, by manipulation or otherwise of curiosity, desire or fear of loss.

More informally, temptation may be used to mean "the state of being attracted and enticed" without anything to do with moral, ethical, or ideological valuation; for example, one may say that a piece of food looks "tempting" even though eating it would result in no negative consequences.

### Non-religious usage

- Temptation is usually used in a loose sense to describe actions, which indicate a lack of self-control. Temptation is a common recurring theme in world literature. Temptation has repercussions for even the strongest. "Temptation" is something that allures, excites, and seduces someone. Infatuation can also lead to temptation as someone might do something for *love* in spite of one's better judgment.

I believe the yielding to temptation is the primary source for relapse, divorce, weight gain, adultery, and for followers of Christ falling away from following Him.

**Luke 8:13-14** *Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life [desires for other things, (Mark 4:19)], and bring no fruit to maturity.*

## Where does it come from?

**James 1:13-14** *Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.*

Our own issues are setting us up for temptation?

## What is our lust list?

Sex	Relationship	Love
Food	Success	Appearance

## Is all lust bad?

**Luke 22: 14-15** *When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. 15 And He said to them, I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;*

## What is the source of our lust?

Unmet needs	Lack of patience	Love
Unwillingness to wait on God	Looks	Acceptance
Purpose / Destiny	Safety, Security, Comfort	Have to have
Unconditional expressed love		

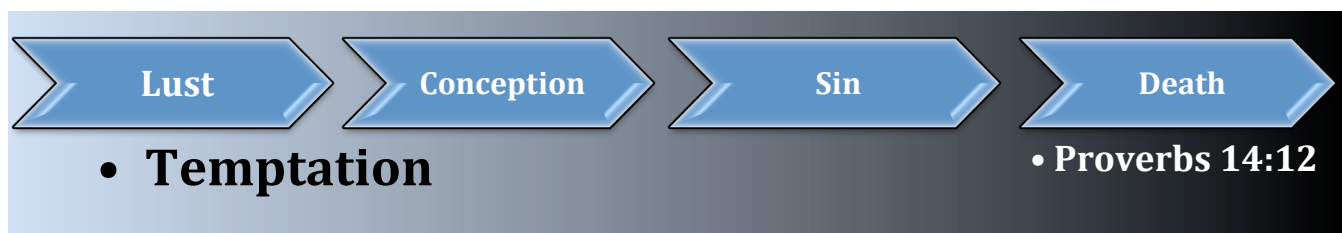
## When does it come?

- **Luke 4: 13** *When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.*

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temptation>

# Temptation

James 1:15 *Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*



Galatians 6:7-9 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*

- **What you sow will grow.**
- Sowing seeds of wrongful lust expecting them not to give birth to sin Is what we do as addicts, a continual planting of thoughts, images, whatever, then watering them, then acting them out.

James 4:1-4 *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Can we stop temptation?

## Freedom Points

- I do not need to fear because **Jesus has overcome the world?**
- I do not have to sow destructive seeds
- **John 16:33** *These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*
- **1 John 4: 4** *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*
- We can say no to temptation, Jesus is our example

## Walking It Out

- What wrongful lust will eventually conceive and give birth to sin in my life? Admit it, talk about it.
- Or you could say, what seeds of lust am I sowing that will eventually take root and grow into something I do not want in my life and have to deal with and “weed” out later?
- Where do I need healing or need to apply weed killer in my life?
- Am I blaming someone or something, for what I am responsible for planting in my life that is feeding my desires? Talk about it.
- **Romans 13: 14** *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*
- **Guard your hearts**

**Proverbs 4:20-27** *My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body. 23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life. 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you. 25 Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. 26 Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established. 27 Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.*