

The Dynamics of Temptation

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Introduction:

- Teaching for _____ counselee's heart (Jer. 17:9)
- All persons struggle with all _____ temptations (James 1:14-15)
- Tendency toward one temptation as a _____
- Addiction can be seen in these temptations as _____

A. How Our Flesh is Tempted by This World

1. Our _____ is the Problem

Mark 7:20-23: And he said, "That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

2. World appeals to our sinful bent toward pleasing self (Gen. 5:3 & 6:5; Ja. 1:14)
 - a. Must teach them to die to self and live for Christ by abiding in Christ (John 15:6-10; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3)
 - b. The physical component of addiction does not negate the fact that it is primarily a _____ problem called sin (not a DISEASE) acc. to Eph. 5:18; Prov. 23
3. Choices in three areas: thoughts, words, and actions
 - a. Must counsel the heart (Matt. 5-7) at the thought level
 - b. God must reveal and then transform the desires of our hearts (Heb 4:12)
 - 1) Accomplished through cultivating one's heart (Prov. 4:20-23; Prov. 23:19-21)
 - 2) Provided by God's grace (Rom. 2:4; Acts 11:18)

B. Three Common Temptations

1. Found in Genesis 3:6, Matt. 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, and I John 2:15-17
2. The World's System & Satan say your counselee should:
 - a. Do whatever he wants to do, (usually in the form of _____)

- b. Have whatever he wants to have (usually in the form of _____)
 - c. Be whatever he wants to be (usually in the form of _____)
3. Like Adam and Eve, the bait that Satan uses to lure you to the world will appeal to your flesh in these three ways (Genesis 3:6):
- a. To Do (Comfort)
 - b. To Have (Covetousness)
 - c. To Be (Control, love of)

C. Lust of the flesh: To Do (COMFORT)

1. Temptation to do anything you want to do (no limits)
 - a. Satan asked her in **Gen. 3:1b**: And he said unto the woman, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"
 - b. Desire to satisfy a physical craving in the wrong way
 - c. Consuming desire to experience pleasure
 - d. **Genesis 3:6a**: And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food...
2. Accusation against God's _____
 - a. God's goodness and love are challenged in this temptation.
 - b. God is holding back His best for you. His provision is not as good as it could be: "I feel (i.e. tired, lonely, sad) so I am going to satisfy my physical desire no matter what God says."
3. Satan in Matthew 4:3

Matthew 4:3: And when the tempter came to him, he said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."
4. Jesus in Matthew 4:4

Matthew 4:4: But he answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."
5. The only answer is to read and obey the Word of God over and above one's own feelings.
 - a. Can only be accomplished by a Christian in the power of the Holy Spirit; not one's own strength
 - b. God's _____ is the antidote.

D. Lust of the eyes: To Have (COVETOUSNESS)

1. Temptation to have anything you desire to possess
 - a. Satan exclaimed to her in **Gen. 3:4**: And the serpent said unto the woman, "Ye shall not surely die"

- b. Desire to possess something God has not given yet
 - c. Compelled to possess what is visible despite consequences
 - d. Living by what is seen rather than living by faith
 - e. Idolatry at the core; living for self
 - f. **Gen. 3:6b:** and that it was pleasant to the eyes
2. Accusation against God's _____
- a. God's wisdom and omniscience is challenged...
 - b. "I see it, I want it, I've got to have it no matter what..."
 - c. Satan in Luke 4:5-7

Luke 4:5-7: And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said unto him, "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. 7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine."

d. Jesus in Luke 4:8

And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

- e. The only answer is to serve God and worship Him alone.
 - 1) Must trust in Him and His wisdom rather than in oneself (Prov. 3:5-8)
 - 2) _____ of God is the antidote.

E. Pride of Life: To Be Loved (LOVE OF CONTROL)

1. Temptation to be anything you want to be
- a. Satan encouraged Eve in Genesis 3:5 to be like God
- Genesis 3:5:** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
- b. Desire to receive praise and attention of others
 - c. Desire to be in control
 - d. Competitiveness to achieve; trusting self's power
 - e. **Genesis 3:6c:** and a tree to be desired to make one wise
2. Accusation against God's _____
- a. God's sovereignty or omnipotence (power) is challenged...
 - b. ...by presuming upon God for personal recognition

- c. "I can do this myself," or "My will be done," or "God will rescue me and fix it if it does not work out."
3. Satan in Luke 4:9-11
- And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: 10 For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: 11 And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."
4. Jesus in Luke 4:12
- And Jesus answering said unto him, "It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."
- a. Doing the _____ of _____ rather than one's own will
 - b. Say to yourself what Jesus said to the Father in **Luke 22:42**: Saying, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."
5. The only answer is submission.
- a. Humility required
 - b. Doing the WILL of GOD is the antidote

F. "Addiction" Manifestations

1. Gambling (1 Tim. 6:10; 2 Tim. 3:2)
- a. Lust of the Flesh – "Going to the casino is fun & exciting!"
 - b. Lust of the Eyes – "I want the money and I already know how I am going to spend it!"
 - c. Pride of Life – "I can figure this out on my own and beat the system."
 - d. Statement combining all three in one: "This is so fun; I can't wait to win all of that money because my friends will see that I am rich and successful!"
2. Drugs and Alcohol
- a. Lust of Flesh – "I love partying with my friends," or anticipation before getting the drug, "This is going to be so much fun. I can't wait."
 - b. Lust of Eyes – "I have got to have a drink just to feel like I see normal people: relaxed."
 - c. Pride of Life – "I can control this addiction because I become who I want to be."
 - d. Statement combining all three in one: "I love the way this makes me feel because I become relaxed and more like who I want to be."
3. Stages of Addiction
- a. At first, the lust of the flesh stage is fun when one is simply experimenting with the sin of choice.

- b. Then, the lust of the eyes says at heart, “I’ve got to have this!”
- c. Finally, the pride of life desires the sin of choice because it becomes part of who they are; identity.

G. Empowered by Christ

1. All temptations have been defeated by Jesus. (Heb. 4:15)
2. The Holy Spirit inside of a Christian gives the power to will and to do what God requires. (Phil. 2:12-13)
3. Identify the preference to sin in your counselee.
4. Then, emphasize the three specific solutions for that specific temptation: WORD, WORSHIP, and WILL OF GOD
 - a. Word: instead of my own comfort; ultimate source of Comfort is the Holy Spirit understanding of the Word of God
 - b. Worship: instead of desires of my flesh; ultimate satisfaction found in the worship of the One true God not in the temporal things of this life (Col 3:2)
 - c. Will of God: instead of my will; my hope is not in what I can control; it’s in the One who is in control

H. Ultimately, the goal is to become more like Christ for God’s glory.

I John 2:15-17: Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Recommended Resource

Shaw, Mark. *Understanding Temptation: The War Within Your Heart*, Focus Publishing, 2014.