



Why So Much Temptation?

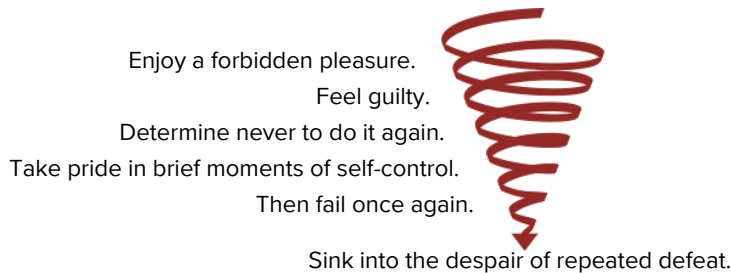
Lesson 1

“Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.” – John Owen

*“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you are living according to the flesh, **you must die**; but if by the Spirit **you are putting to death the deeds of the body**, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*
Romans 8:12-14

*“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, **let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**”* Hebrews 12:1-2

The Downward Spiral of a Habitual Sin



What is your habitual sin(s)?

Check your present response to it.

How Do People Respond When Caught in this Downward Spiral?

- Begin to **excuse** their sin. *“I’m only human!”*
- Become **pessimistic**. *“Why try anymore?”*
- Become **defensive** or **defiant**. *“No one wants to help me!”*
- Begin to see themselves as **victims**. *“I can’t help myself!”*

How Should Christians Respond?

In Christ begin to **KILL** our sinful habits and **REPLACE** them with godly habits!

Why Is There So Much Temptation in Our Lives?

1. You Now Have an **ADVERSARY**: *The Devil!* 1 Peter 5:8-9

His Names Reveal His Character *and* Role in Temptation:

➤ The **Adversary** who **OPPOSES** God’s person, purposes, and people.

“Satan” means **“Adversary”** (Used 52x) Revelation 12:3, 7-9; 1 Peter 5:8

➤ The **Tempter** who **TEMPTS** us to take the bait and choose to be caught.

1 Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:3

➤ The **Deceiver** who **DISGUISES** himself and his temptations.

- The Devious Serpent – Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 11:3, 13-14; cf. 2:11
- The Delightful Servant – 2 Corinthians 11:14
- The Deadly Snares – 1 Timothy 3:7; 2 Timothy 2:26
- The Deceitful Schemes – “Scheming” 2 Corinthians 2:11 with “Strategies” Ephesians 6:11; cf. 4:14

- The **Liar** who **LIES** to us about sin's consequences and God's goodness. *John 8:44*
- The **Accuser** who **CONDEMNS** us *after* we give up and give into temptation.
"Devil" means **"Slanderer"** (Used 35x) *Revelation 12:9-10*
- The **Ringleader** who **REBELS** with his army of demons against Christ.
Isaiah 14:13-14 (5x "I will"); *1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7; Ephesians 6:11-12*

2. You Still Have the ABILITY to Sin: *The Flesh!* *James 1:14-16; Romans 7:14-24*

3. You Are Still ATTRACTED to Selfish Pleasure: *The World!* *1 John 2:15-16*

WORDLY ATTRACTION	EVE'S TEMPTATION	JESUS' TEMPTATION
The lust of the eyes	Pleasant to the eyes	See all these kingdoms of the world? Yours for the taking just worship me!
The lust of the flesh	Good for food	Haven't eaten for forty days? Turn these stones into bread!
The pride of life	Able to make one wise	Cast yourself down this cliff, so God saves you and people worship you!

Why Does God Allow So Much Temptation in Our Lives?

1. To TEST Our Loyalty. *Genesis 22:1, 12*

- Every temptation is an opportunity to be tested by God but **NEVER TEMPTED**. *James 1:13*
- Only when we give up and **GIVE IN** does temptation become a sin. *James 1:14-15; Hebrews 4:15*

What's the Difference Between God's Testing and the Devil's Tempting?

God tests us to **prove** our love for Him and loyalty to Him, so He can **AFFIRM** us.
 Satan tempts us to **disprove** our love for God and our loyalty to Him, so he can **ACCUSE** us.
 God tests us to **bring out the best** in us. Satan tempts us to **bring out the worse** in us.

2. To TRANSFORM Our Character. *1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4*

Temptation becomes God's magnifying glass: It shows us how much work He has left to do in our lives.

God tests us to **REVEAL** what's really in our hearts, so we will **rejoice** or **repent**.
 Satan tempts us to **CONCEAL** what's really in our hearts, so we will **despair** or **defy**.
 God tests us to **convict** us. Satan tempts us to **condemn** us,

3. To TRANSFER Our Dependence. *2 Corinthians 12:7-9*

Temptation is a constant reminder to depend on God and His grace and not ourselves or our own resources.

God tests us to **draw us closer** to Himself. Satan tempts us to **draw us FARTHER** away from God.
 God tests us to bring us into greater **FREEDOM** and **life** (= Fellowship).
 Satan tempts us to bring us into greater **BONDAGE** and **death** (= Separation).

4. To TREASURE Our Triune God. *Matthew 13:44-46*

Temptation is a reminder that Christ has the greatest value and is the greatest satisfaction in life.
 Ultimately temptation can bring greater **GLORY** to God and greater **GRACE** to our lives!

In Your Battle Against Habitual Sin God Is Graciously Reminding You

His grace is **greater** than your sin!

His grace is **sufficient** to enable you say “no” to sinful habits, even when you feel like saying “yes”!

His strength is **made perfect** in your weakness!

His Son is your **greatest treasure!**