

God's Got An Answer Series #8

God's Got An Answer When we are Tempted

Today, we are going to learn 10 Biblical concepts that will help us learn how to handle temptations...

1. God Knows About Our Temptations!

Hebrews 4:13 (NIV) ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

2. Jesus Has Felt Temptations Like Us!

Matthew 4:1-3 (NIV) ¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert **to be tempted by the devil.** ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ **The tempter came to him** and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have **one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.**

3. We Are Not Alone In Our Temptations and They Are Not Too Big or Too Difficult.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT) ¹³ The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

4. All Temptations Come From Three Fundamental Areas.

1 John 2:16 (NASB) ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

The Lust of the Flesh –

The Lust of the Eyes –

The Pride of Life –

5. We Must Honestly Identify Our Areas of Temptation!

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT) ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

6. We Must Counteract Temptations, Do Not Tolerate Them!

Romans 6:12-13 (NLT) ¹² Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

Romans 16:19 (NIV) ¹⁹ ...I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

7. Use The Right Resistance!

James 4:7 (NIV) “Submit yourselves, then, to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**”

8. Remind Yourself That The Final Pain Will Soon Erase The Temporary Pleasure!

Hebrews 11:24-25 (NIV) ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God **rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.**

Proverbs 7:21&23 (NIV)

²¹ With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk... little knowing it will **cost him his life.**

9. Use The Memorized Word of God to empower you to counteract the temptation.

Psalms 119:9-11 (NIV) ⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

10. Be Self-Controlled!

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

James 4:17 (NIV) Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Conclusion:

Now is the time for every one of us to be honest before God. Own up to our temptations, confess our struggle and begin acting on the Truth we know to resist temptations.

God's got an answer when you are tempted!

Most common temptations... starting with the younger generation and moving toward older generations...

- Lying
- Anger
- Selfishness
- Peer pressure to do wrong
- Sexual temptation/pre-marital sex
- Cheating on school work
- Drugs
- Stealing from a friend or store
- Gossip
- Suicide
- Anger
- Jealously
- Criticism and gossip
- Sexual desires/lust/adultery
- Pornography
- Materialism
- Coveting what others have
- Pride
- Pornography
- Bad Attitude
- Anger
- Alcoholism
- Drugs
- Me first, God last
- Sexual desires
- Worry about life and future
- Spiritual retirement
- Self Indulgence / Materialism
- Feelings of regret
- Critical Spirit
- Worry

These areas of temptation are from surveys... there are reoccurring items throughout the ages. It starts with the youngest to the oldest.

Many areas of temptation show up throughout all the ages.

The last five were from a survey of over 200 Seniors.

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