

## The Science of Temptation Part 1

“How to Overcome Temptation?”

Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

### What is temptation?

Temptation: Solicitation or enticement to sin by breaking God's commandments and rejecting His testimony of Truth.

### What is the “science of temptation”?

A skillful implementation of intellectual and practical methods based on a systematic study of the behavior of human beings to entice them to sin against God. Though hidden from sight, like a skillful scientist and general Satan and his evil demons study, plan, design, and implement their evil devising to tempt and control the minds of those who yield to their temptations.

### Who is the architect of the “science of temptation”?

Lucifer's Pride

#### **Isaiah 14:12 -14**

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Lucifer, a created being, wanted to be “like the most High”. Lucifer wanted to be like Jesus who is God.

**John 1:1-3, 14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

It is impossible for any of God's created beings to be God. God is eternal, always existent. Lucifer was created. He rejected that truth and believed his own lies. His pride made him stupid! Pride will make you think stupid, thinking that you are more than you really are! Lucifer thought of himself to be more than he really was. Lucifer was created and can NEVER be God; neither can we.

Lucifer who is now known as Satan, the dragon and serpent, is the architect of the “science of temptation.” In this series you will practically learn how to overcome his seducing, enticing, and subtle temptations and have daily victory through the power of Jesus Christ. **Satan is the ultimate tempter, his first main objective is to get you to doubt God's Word.** We will see as we learn more about the science of temptation that once he can get you to doubt God's Word, you are open to his deceptions and you WILL yield into sin. Listen. This is very serious. Satan cannot make you sin, but he can tempt you to sin. Temptation is NOT sin, but yielding or submitting to it is sin. Satan cannot read your mind, but he and his demons carefully study each person's behavior, reactions, likes and dislikes.

### Why does Satan want us to sin and stay in it?

**James 1:13-15**

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Romans 6:23 The Wages (payment) of SIN is DEATH... eternal death. Sin always leads to a life a pain, misery, confusion, and death.

“The great controversy between Christ and Satan, that **has been carried forward for nearly six thousand years**, is soon to close; and the wicked one redoubles his efforts to defeat the work of Christ in man's behalf and to fasten souls in his snares. To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Saviour's mediation is ended, and there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he seeks to accomplish.

**When there is no special effort made to resist his power, when indifference prevails in the church and the world, Satan is not concerned; for he is in no danger of losing those whom he is leading captive at his will.** But when the attention is called to eternal things, and souls are inquiring, "What must I do to be saved?" he is on the ground, seeking to match his power against the power of Christ and to counteract the influence of the Holy Spirit.” - Ellen White, Great Controversy p. 518

**We are NO match for Satan with about 6000 years of experience!**

Satan is a rebellious, fallen angel from Heaven. No human being on this earth can match the power and intellect of Satan. Remember, humans were made lower than angels.

**Hebrews 2:6, 7**

6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Before Lucifer's rebellion, he was created beautiful and wise. He was given the highest position an angel can have, a covering cherub, next to the throne of God!

**How does the Bible describe him before his fall?****Ezekiel 28:12 - 15**

12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou **sealest up the sum**, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14 Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: **thou wast upon the holy mountain of God**; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

**Sealest up the sum** – God filled up the “cup” of Lucifer. He poured much more in Lucifer than any of His created angels. Lucifer was the most beautiful angel in heaven with awesome musical abilities.

He was made with pipes (wind pipes). He was a choir by himself. He was made with tabrets that were in rhythm and harmony with Heaven.

Note: Lucifer was perfect in beauty and wisdom, but his pride and rebellion corrupted them. Don't miss it. His music is now corrupted. It flows against the harmony and rhythm of God and causes others to rebel against God. His beauty is corrupted with pride. His wisdom is corrupted with evil intelligence that is bent on destroying God's creation and overthrowing the kingdom of God. **There is NO computer on this earth than can match Satan's intellectual skill. Satan does not forget, but remembers everything. Satan has about 6000 years experience in the field of the science of temptation.**

**Again, we are NO match to Satan nor his demons! In order to overcome temptation you need to understand the science of temptation and you need to daily submit to Jesus and His word.**

### What happened as a result of Lucifer's pride and rebellion in heaven?

#### **Revelation 12:7 - 9**

7 And there was **war in heaven**: Michael (Jesus) and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And **prevailed not**; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the **great dragon was cast out**, that **old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan**, which **deceiveth** the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

### How many angels did Satan get to join in his rebellion against God and how did he do it?

#### **Revelation 12:3, 4**

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon [Satan], having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his **tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth....

Based on Revelation 1:20 the stars are symbolic of angels... **"The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches."**

1/3 of all the angels were cast out of heaven with Satan.

**How?** Notice Revelation 12:4 say that Satan's "tail drew the third part of the" angels out of heaven.

### What does that "tail" represent that drew or enticed the 1/3 of the angel's to join Satan's rebellion in Heaven?

#### **Isaiah 9:15**

15 The ancient and **honourable, he is the head**; and the prophet that **teacheth lies**, he is the **tail**.

The head is honorable, it seeks and follows truth. The tail teaches lies. That is why God tells His people that He wants us to be the head and not the tail; teachers of truth, not lies.

**Going back to Revelation 12:4**, the tail on dragon that Satan used to draw 1/3 of the heavenly angels into his rebellion represents lies! The tail represents lies. Satan deceived 1/3 of the angels by telling lies as if they were the truth. All of Satan's angels, known as demons, lost out of heaven because they believed his lies.

**The names Satan and Devil were given to Lucifer after his fall. His names reveal his fallen character.**

**Satan (Greek)** – Satanias : Adversary (one who opposes another in purpose or act).

**Devil (Greek)** – Diabolos [dee-ab'-ol-os] : false accuser, slanderer

In Lucifer's open rebellion, he opposed the commandments of God and God's Truth. He accused God falsely. He slandered God's character. Satan, the Devil, opposes and falsely misrepresents the character of God.

In order to entice 1/3 of the angels in Heaven the Devil misrepresented the character of God through his lies. He used a mixture of truth and lies to tint the character of God in the minds of those angels who listened to him. **He used his exalted position as credibility to give weight to his lies to create doubt about the true character of God in the minds of his hearers.**

For the first time one of God's created beings rebelled against Him. For the first time false accusations about His character are presented to ALL his angels in heaven and other created worlds.

<b>God's True Character</b>	<b>Devil's False Accusation</b>
God is Love	God is Not Love
God gives all his creation the freedom of choice	God is a God of Force
God is kind	God is a tyrant
God's law is freedom	God's law is bondage

**Remember all of the Devil's false accusations of the character of God are designed to create doubt in the minds of those he is trying to entice into rebellion against God.**

**Why didn't God destroy Satan and the angels that joined in his rebellion immediately?**

Think about it. God was openly accused before ALL of heaven and his creation. If someone took you to court and openly falsely accused you of stealing \$1000 out of his bank account and you killed him right on the spot after he made his accusation before everyone, what would the people think about his accusation? They would probably think that what he was saying was truth.

**God's character is on trial**

Satan's accusations put God's character on trial before the entire universe. In order to prove His innocence before the world He had to allow Satan's rebellion to run its course so all can see that the accuser, the Devil, is a straight up liar and that God is loving, kind, and just. God shows His innocence through His actions to save us from sin. God's character has already been vindicated through His Son Jesus Christ. If God killed Satan and his angel's immediately after their false accusations ALL of the universe would think that all of their false accusations were true. They would have never seen the ugly affects of Satan's rebellion and sin. They would have served God out of fear of being destroyed.

**What did God put in the middle of the Garden of Eden to test human's loyalty to God?**

**Genesis 2:8, 9**

**8** And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

**9** And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil was a test of loyalty to debunk Satan's accusation that humans are forced to serve and worship God. Adam and Eve were made perfect without sin. They did not have our current fallen sinful nature. **They were not born into sin and shaped in iniquity. They were perfect in beauty and wisdom. They were given, like all of God's created beings, the freedom of choice.**

After God made Adam and Eve on the sixth day of creation in Genesis 1:31 it says, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* **very good.**"

**Adam and Eve were made to live in perfect harmony with God forever, but as a test of loyalty what was God's explicit instructions about the tree of knowledge of good and evil?**

#### **Genesis 2:16, 17**

**16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, **Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:**

**17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **thou shalt not eat of it:** for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt **surely die.**

**Surely die: The Hebrew word "mûth" [mooth] is actually repeated twice for great emphasis on dying.**

In the Hebrew it would sound more like this "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt muth muth, meaning die die. KJV got it right when it interpreted "die die" into our English language meaning "surely die", cease to exist, no more life – perish.

The first die (muth) is the natural result of sin, it is known as the first death. The second die (muth) is referring to the second death, the final punishment by hellfire for the wicked who remain in rebellion and sin against God.

We know that Adam and Eve failed the test of loyalty. But let's take time and study why Adam and Eve failed the test of loyalty and learn more about the "science of temptation" so we avoid being enticed into sin.

Remember again the "science of temptation" A skillful implementation of intellectual and practical methods based on a systematic study of the behavior of human beings to entice them to sin against God.

In the Word of God, God clearly reveals to us the war that took place in heaven and the plans, character, and mission of Satan and his demons. Even before Adam and Eve fell, God warned them the same. They had no excuse. We have no excuse.

**How did Satan tempt Eve to sin and what are the same techniques that he uses today and lessons we can learn to resist Satan's temptations?**

**Remember Satan was confined to the tree of knowledge of good and evil this was his only**

**avenue to tempt Adam and Eve. So He had to study the pair from the tree. He can see them as a pair when they went to the tree of life and pluck and eat.** He saw how happy and peaceful they were together. He hated every moment of it! You can imagine that he looked at every expression and words of the couple trying to figure out the best method to entice them to rebel against God. Satan's case seemed hopeless because the couple was always together. In the cool of the day he can see them conversing with God face to face, laughing, smiling, singing, and enjoying each others company. Day after day Satan waited and waited for a moment to strike.

With great delight that moment came when he saw Eve wondering closer and closer to the tree. He could not believe it, she was by herself! She began to look at the forbidden tree with curiosity. Satan knew that this was the moment he was waiting for and he could not blow it. This maybe his only chance. His goal, create doubt in Eve's mind, then she will be open to his deceptions and rebel against God! So Satan used the dazzling, but subtle creatures of God creation, the snake, to do the world's first puppet entertainment show to tempt Eve.

### **Genesis 3:1**

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

While Eve is getting closer and closer to the tree with her curiosity Satan asks her a question that directly challenges God's truth.

God's truth was explicitly clear:

### **Genesis 2:16, 17**

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

In verse 17, God uses the word, "but" as a conjunction to reveal a clear exception to what was previously said. **In other words, God truth reveals that they could freely eat from every tree in the garden, except from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This was an explicit exception and the only exception.**

Notice in Genesis 3:1 Satan also uses a conjunction, "Yea". In modern English it can mean, "but, indeed, also". Satan use "yea" to refute God's truth, but mixes it with truth. Let's look.

### **Covert Negative & Incredulous**

Yea or but... "hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" This was a very crafty question.

Is Satan question true? Yes, they could not eat from every tree of the garden. Even though the question is true, but it is grossly misrepresented.

" 'Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' Genesis 3:1. Thus far the tempter's words were truth; but in his manner of speaking them there was a disguised contempt for the words of God. There was a **covert negative**, a doubt of the divine truthfulness. Satan sought to instill into the mind of Eve the thought that God would not do as He had said; that the withholding of such beautiful fruit was a contradiction of His love and compassion for man." - Desire of Ages, p. 118

**Lesson 1:** The technique that Satan uses in the phrase of his question to Eve is known as a **covert negative, covert meaning hidden. In other words, a twisted truth.**

Satan took what God said and made emphasis on the exception of not eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but ignored the positive statement that they can freely eat from every tree but the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

**Lesson 2: Remember, what is Satan's main goal in the first phase of temptation?** Create doubt in God's truth.

One main technique that Satan uses to tempt us like Eve, he presents his temptations in an **incredulous way.**

Incredulous: "Disinclined or indisposed to believe; skeptical."

**Example: You don't eat meat**

Incredulous is not just what is said, but how it is said. **For example: In an even friendly tone, "You don't eat meat. Versus a tone of disbelief and skepticism about the person, "you don't eat meat!!!".**

The tone of disbelief and skepticism is how Satan presented his question to Eve, and does us the same way. In the way he is phrasing the question the receiver interprets as, "Do you really believe that?"

The way Satan phrased his question, not only did he want to create doubt in Eve's mind but he also wanted to grossly misrepresent and attack the character of God.

**When you uncover Satan's covert negative incredulous question he was really saying, "God is unfair. Do you mean that God will not let you eat freely from any tree in the garden? That does not make sense. Does it? Is He going to let your starve? You got to eat, right?"**

**Listen. Where is Eve at this time?** At the forbidden tree. What is Satan's covert negative incredulous question also saying to Eve? "Why doesn't God want you to eat from the forbidden tree? He is trying to hold something back from you that you deserve?"

Not only was this another direct attack on God's character, **but he was trying to make it appear that he was a sympathizing friend that would say,** "Poor baby, let me help with your problem, God is not being reasonable in his command."

**Lesson 3:** Satan or demons will come to you as a sympathizing friend. They will first come as an "angel of light."

What should Eve have done when she saw and heard a snake speaking to her at the forbidden tree? Run away. Snakes don't talk! Run! Don't play.

The first major mistake she made was that she should have been close to her husband.

**Lesson 4:** Don't miss this. You can NEVER overcome Satan's temptation by yourself, you ALWAYS will need divine help. This is your security. Eve left her security, her husband.

**The second major mistake was that Eve placed herself on temptation's ground when God**

**explicitly told her the danger of the forbidden tree.**

**Lesson 5:** NEVER purposely place yourself in a place of temptation when God explicitly tells you to stay away.

**Romans 13:13, 14**

**13** Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

**14** But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision (supply) for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

When you purposely place yourself in a forbidden place (physically or intellectually) that is against the will of God you are making provision to yield to sin! Satan and his demons will always try to tempt you to sin regardless, but when you disregard God's Word (His truth) and purposely go to the forbidden, you WILL fail.

**Never forget this:** There is no spiritual divine strength in disobedience! (repeat) There is NO victory in disobedience to God's explicit truth. This is why Satan has to get all his victims to doubt God's truth first before they yield to his temptations!! (period)

**We will continue to study next sermon... part 2**

Never forget if you want to be successful against Satan's temptations. You must not neglect prayer and personal Bible study.

"Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind." - Great Controversy, p. 519.

**Engross definition:** "absorb all the attention or interest of." - dictionary.com

**What are possible devices of Satan that you know engross the mind?**

Appeal...