

Temptation in Scripture:

- God does not tempt anyone to sin (James 1.13);
 - Jesus tells us a helpful way to pray: “Lord, lead us not into temptation (Mt 6.13);
 - We must watch & pray so as to now enter temptation b/c the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (Mark 14.38).
 - Many make an initial profession/decision for Jesus but in times of temptation fall away (Luke 8.13);
 - God guards his people so that we are not tempted beyond what we are able (1 Cor 10.13);
 - God rescues the godly from temptation (2 Peter 2.9).
 - We are tempted when we are “carried away & enticed” by our own lust (heart-desires) (James 1.14).
- In Psalm 91 — we learn about the security of the person who trusts in the LORD.
 - You can HIDE in God (1-2)
 - You can HOLD to God (3-13)
 - You can HEAR from God (14-16)

Spurgeon said of Ps 91: “*in the whole collection there is not a more cheering psalm!*”
*Ps 91 is called by another scholar “**the preeminent psalm of refuge!**”*

Background to Mark 1.12-13

- Mark’s gospel is the **rapid, fast-pace** account of Jesus’ life as the **Suffering Servant**: He’s the Son of God, the only Savior for sinners — even the Romans!
- **In this introduction to his gospel (Mark 1:1-13), Mark shows:**
 - The **IDENTITY** of the Son (Son of God; 1.1)
 - The **GLORY** of the Son (at Baptism; Son of God/well-pleasing)
 - The **VICTORY** of the Son (at Temptation)

THESIS — We want to observe our Champion — Jesus — in the desert in his TEMPTATION. We’ll see the account in 3 ways.

I. Consider the LEADING OF THE SPIRIT (12a)**II. Consider the TEMPTATION OF SATAN! (12-13a)**

Mark 1:12-13 — "Jesus' Temptation: Wielding the Word & Triumphant Victoriously!"

1. First—**Turn stones into bread (lust of flesh)** > temptation to NOT trust God
 - a) **serve yourself:** *do what you want*

2. Second—**Throw yourself down (lust of eyes)** >temptation to tempt/force God to act
 - a) **be spectacular:** *be what you want.*

3. Third—**Bow & worship me (pride of life)** > temptation to worship Satan >> temptation to CROWN w/
o the CROSS
 - a) **honor yourself:** *prize and worship what you want.*

Christian, Child of God: You MUST Stand Strong; keep your armor on & bright. Take up the weapons.

1. Read the Word
2. Memorize the Word
3. Meditate the Word
4. Counsel the Word
5. Apply the Word

III. Consider the MINISTRY OF ANGELS! (13b)

What do we see about Jesus??

1. **SINLESSNESS** of Jesus — Jesus was OBEDIENT and never sinned.
2. **VICTORY** of Jesus — Jesus WAGED WAR with Satan himself & triumphed.
3. **SPIRIT-GUIDANCE** of Jesus — Jesus was led by the Spirit to the toughest test & the Spirit protected & delivered Him.
4. **BIBLE-CONFIDENCE** of Jesus — Jesus wielded the sword of the Word *every time* he was tempted.
5. **SYMPATHY** of Jesus — Jesus lovingly sympathizes with you — in *every. single. temptation.*

Hebrews 2:17-18

Hebrews 4:14-16

At the immediate moment of temptation, F.L.E.E. from lust to God!

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.— 2 Timothy 2:22

Godly men need game plans. God commands His servants to not imitate what is evil but what is good. True men of God need helpful reminders put in place *before* the moment of temptation strikes. Here is a very brief *and memorable* game plan for you to FLEE from lust to God at the very moment of temptation. Commit these to memory *before* the temptations arise.

1. FLEE and run from sin.

When that temptation arises, men of God must act quickly to run away from sin. Do not entertain the thought. For if you do, you’ll soon justify it somehow and indulge. You must immediately put to death the inception of the thought and flee from it! Acknowledge your complete allegiance to God and put on loving thoughts and actions. Get out of or vary the situation immediately (2 Timothy 2:22).

2. LEAN on God.

Call on God for strength to honor Him. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (Psalm 37:5; James 4:8). Call upon God in your distresses and God will hear and God will save you from them. God is kind and eager to rescue His own from the moment of hardship. After all, Christ was there and He can relate. He suffered and was tempted in all ways. He can come to your aid and provide the way of escape. Lean on God. Call on God. Seek God.

3. ENTERTAIN right thoughts.

Rehearse those things for which you are grateful and thankful and remember to give thanks in all circumstances. Put off bad ways of thinking and replace it with diligent, intentional, deliberate, and regular thoughts of godliness and purity (Philippians 4:8-9). You must act upon what you *know* is right. You must get rid of impure thoughts and replace them with Godly thoughts. You must put on the Lord Jesus Christ (actively, intentionally, deliberately) and make *no provision* for the flesh with regard to its lusts. Entertain the right thoughts. Memorize Scripture and chew on it.

4. EAGERLY pursue love.

Continue to pursue love and righteousness. The opposite of lust is love. Lust is selfish and self-motivated and self-gratifying/self-fulfilling. True love is self-giving, others-motivated, and focused on fulfilling and serving them. Don’t look back. Look to your ‘ways to love and serve’. Engage yourself in giving (Proverbs 21:21). One of the ways to find the way of escape in the moment of temptation is to *actively serve others*. Yes, stop thinking of yourself and certainly do not isolate yourself or minimize your temptations. Seek ways to serve others and then *do it!* Pursue others in love!

— outline adapted from Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, 296.

FORTY DAYS JESUS WAS TEMPTED

Tune: "O the deep deep love of Jesus"

Forty days was Jesus tempted, Forty nights his trust was tried.
From the Jordan, Christ was driven; there would Satan be his
guide.
Famished, thirsty, lost and lonely, Christ endured the toughest
test.
In the wilderness, he struggled, Satan sought to do his best.

Then the devil said to Jesus, "You look like you're moving slow.
Surely you need bread and water, take this stone and make it
so!"
Jesus' stomach sure was empty, hunger like he'd never known;
Yet to Satan he responded, "We don't live by bread alone."

Then the devil said to Jesus, "look at all these lands you see!
To you I will give their glory, if you only worship me."
Jesus stopped to think it over, but he knew who he should love
Then to Satan he responded, "Worship only God above."

Then the devil said to Jesus, "if you truly are divine,
cast yourself from this high mountain, and you surely will be
fine!"
Jesus knew the holy scriptures, thus he knew the devil's fraud.
Christ responded to his tempter, "Do not test the Lord your God."

Help us, God, when we are tempted, fill us with your Scripture's
strength
Far this Christian journey takes us, help us trust you through its
length.
Jesus knew the way to triumph, Scripture was his sword and
shield.
May your Spirit come upon us: send us now your Word to wield.

O CHURCH ARISE

O church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride;
Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in Glory.