

Presumption
Matthew 3:13-4:11
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Let's not forget what is at stake when we are tempted:

- Our **future**
- Our **family**
- Our **faith**

The Question that always rises is, "Can God really be trusted?"

Temptation #2 – **To attempt to use God to meet your own ends**

Matthew 4:5-6 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:⁶ *He shall give His angels charge over you,* and, *In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.* ' "

- This temptation makes God **subservient to us**
 - Psalm 40:7-8 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book *it is* written of me.⁸ I Delight to do your will, O my God, and Your law *is* within my heart."
- This temptation assumes that God will always bail **us out of circumstances**.
 - John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
- This temptation is presented as a step of **faith** when it is a step of **foolishness**.
 - Romans 6:13 ...but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Answer #2: God knows what He is doing, I will not taunt him.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, *'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'* "

- We are here to trust God not **taunt him**.
 - Exodus 17:7 So he called the name of the place, Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" Also Deut 6:16
- We are here to cooperate with God **not manipulate him**.
 - Stop and Think - manipulating God results in disappointment
 - Stop and Think - manipulating God results distance
 - Stop and Think – manipulating God may result in desertion
 - Stop and Think – cooperating with God results in close communion
 - Stop and Think - cooperating with God result in constant communication
 - Stop and Think - cooperating with God results in consistent commitment

Psalm 19:12-14 Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*.

¹³Keep back your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

