In the Eye of Temptation

Greg Kline · Hebrews 4:14–16

INTRODUCTION

- That bad news is that someone, something, is out there to get us.
- For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
- This morning, we're going to look at four ways to stand up in the storm of temptation when Satan tries to knock us back.

1 Pray Before and During Temptation

Matthew 6:9–13; Matthew 26:36–41

- Perhaps the most elemental and yet powerful advice the Bible offers about standing up to temptation is found in prayer.
- And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- Watch and pray that you may not enter temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- Christ here was not only praying that temptation be avoided, but that temptation would be overcome.
- Prayer has a place in every single aspect of our lives, regardless of what anyone else will tell you.

2 Stop and Think About the Big Picture

John 12:48; Matthew 7:21

- The big picture is that we are to be obeying the God Almighty, submitting our will to His.
- Fear God and keep his commandments. For this is man's all.
- Who do you serve? Not in name, but in life.
- He desires with all of his might and all of his being that we forget the big picture.
- Not everyone who says to me, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of the Father who is in heaven.
- In the eye of temptation, it's not about what's going on. It's not about the person tempting us. It's not even about you. It's about your soul.

3 We Need to Not Be Fooled

Matthew 7:13–14; Romans 12; James 1:13–15

- We need to be able to recognize what the evil is, and that will show us what the good is.
- A, doing the will of the Father, or B loving the world and acting accordingly.
- Enter by the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter in by it are many.
- If Satan came up this morning and he said, I will give you ten million dollars for your soul. Hopefully, none of us would take it. But we exchange it for a few angry words.

- But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire, when it is conceived, gives birth to sin. And sin when it is fully grown, brings forth death.
- Sin is sin. And it will lead to death.

4 We Have Seen Christ's Example

Matthew 4:1–11; Ephesians 6:17

- The first one, resisting Satan is more than a one-time thing.
- Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.
- We need to remember in these times of temptation, Satan's goal is to make sin alluring.
- He gets us by allowing us to make small compromises.
- Christ overcame because he recognized the evil. He recognized what Satan was tempting him with, which were physical things. And he focused on the spiritual.
- Perhaps the most important lesson we can learn about dueling with temptation is that Christ used Scripture.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are we prepared to stand in the eye of temptation? Are we disciplined enough? Are we strong enough? Are we knowledgeable enough in our faith to have the courage and the boldness to put God first every single time?**

MY NOTES