

# Overcoming Temptation

*I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who conquers his enemies; for the hardest victory is the victory over self. –Aristotle*

*It is not the great temptations that ruin us; it is the little ones. --John W. DeForest*

*It is not the mountains that we conquer, but ourselves. --Sir Edmund Hillary*

*The discipline of desire is the background of character. --John Locke*

*The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places. --Unknown*

Sometimes we score own goals in our own lives. E.g. of lady wearing a t- shirt saying “very bad girl”.

When you watch a video of what your life was supposed to have been like (after you die) what will it look like? What is your life like today? Sin = falling short of the mark. There are varying degrees of this.

## I. What is temptation?

### A. Temptation is the enticement to sin and to violate God’s moral law.

**1 Thess 3:5** *For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.*

#### 1. Enticement comes through the “Tempter”—the devil (1 Th. 3:5).

- a. The devil is our adversary or enemy who works against the purpose of God in our lives (1 Pet. 5:8).

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

- b. The devil is a liar who promises pleasure but delivers only death (John 8:44b NIV).

*He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

- c. The devil is a deceiver who attempts to induce us to believe a lie about themselves and about God (Rev. 12:9)

*The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

**2. Enticement comes through our own lustful desires or appetites (Jam. 1:14; 1 John 2:16).**

1 John 2:16 - *For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.*

James 1:14 - *but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.*

The three primary appetites of man are described as:

- a. The lust of the flesh or perverted sensual or physical cravings (i.e. sexual immorality, addictions, etc.).

Galatians 5:24 NIV - *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

- b. The lust of the eyes or excessive desire for the things of the world (i.e. greed, covetousness, materialism, etc.).

1 John 2:15a - *Do not love the world or the things in the world.*

Are you clear about what this consists of? This can even manifest in our ministerial goals as pastors.

Matthew 6:33 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

It's seek first the kingdom not my ministry.

- c. The pride of life or self-promotion and the personal desire for position, power and glory.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 - *Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.*

Some people will compromise, sacrifice their marriages and family because of the pride of life. Many people speak confidently about needing to make decisions for the money but it's now beyond survival, its entered the realm of greed. This holiday I said no to lucrative engagements because of my commitment to family.