

Temptation
January 29, 2012
New Life Community Church

"Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."

James 1: 12 (LB)

"When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians 5: 22- 23 (NLT)

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

2 Corinthians 10: 5

The Steps of Temptation:

Step One: Desire.

"For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, eagerness for lustful pleasure, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within." **James 4: 1 (LB)**

Step Two: Doubt.

"Watch Out! Don't let evil thoughts or doubts make any of you turn from the living God."

Hebrews 3: 12 (CEV)

Step Three: Deception.

"The devil is a liar and the father of lies."

John 8: 44

Step Four: Disobedience.

"We are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own evil desires. Then our evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my dear friends!" **James 1: 14- 16 (TEV)**

Overcome Temptation!

1. Refuse to be intimidated.

"Remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience." **1 Corinthians 10: 13 (NLT)**

2. Recognize the pattern and be prepared.

"Plan carefully what you do...Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way. God's people avoid evil ways, and they protect themselves by watching where they go." **Proverbs 4: 26- 27: 16: 17 (TEV) (CEV)**

3. Request God's help.

"Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it."

Hebrews 4: 16 (TEV)