

#25

# KILLER SINS

God accomplishes good through our temptations.

No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide a way out **so that you may be able to bear it.**

1 Corinthians 10:13 (CSB)

BUT I DON'T WANT TO "BEAR" THE TEMPTATION!

I WANT IT TOTALLY **GONE!**

I WANT ...



### THE DEVIL MAY OFFER YOU AN "EASY LIFE" ... BUT IT HAS A DIFFICULT ENDING.

- ✓ **MOSES KNEW IT –**  
He chose to suffer with God's people rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a little while.  
Hebrews 11:25 (GW)
- ✓ **JOB MENTIONED IT –**  
"Surely you know ... that the mirth of the wicked is brief, the joy of the godless lasts but a moment."  
Job 20:4-5 (NIV)

✓ **JESUS WARNED US ABOUT IT –**

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.  
Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.  
Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.  
Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets."  
Luke 6:24-26 (NIV)

"But Abraham said to [the rich man who died], 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus [a beggar] had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish.'  
Luke 16:25 (NLT)

### GOD DOES NOT OFFER YOU AN "EASY LIFE"

- ✓ **YOU MAY HAVE TO ENDURE THE TEMPTATION –** As 1 Cor. 10:13 tells us, *But God gives us the ability to do so.*
- ✓ **WE SHALL SEE THAT GOD HAS A PURPOSE BEHIND IT –** He uses temptation to accomplish good in our lives.

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Note that the word "bear" can also be translated as "endure"!

... so that you may be able to **bear** it.  
1 Corinthians 10:13b (CSB)

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... that you may be able to **endure** it.  
1 Corinthians 10:13b (NASB)

**KEY ISSUE:** **The way out of temptation is not always "instant." But you don't need to sin!**

... **with the temptation** he will also provide a way out so that you may be able to bear it.  
1 Corinthians 10:13b (CSB)

- Though there are many temptations we can **avoid** by running from them, there are others that may be "with" us for a while; and we may have to **endure** them.

**Either way, God guarantees that we don't have to sin.**  
He faithfully gives us the strength we need.  
(But we must be willing to use it.)

WHAT IF I FAIL?  
WHAT IF I GIVE-IN TO TEMPTATION?

GOD IS STILL FAITHFUL!

**SINCE** God is faithful, **and** the Spirit enables his people to **follow** Jesus,...

**IF YOU ARE FOLLOWING JESUS, YOU WILL ULTIMATELY OVERCOME (EVEN IF YOU HAVE TEMPORARY SETBACKS).**

☞ If God is at work in your life, he **will** accomplish what he is doing!

☞ If you're a fake, you **will** continue choosing to live in sin (even if you stop calling it "sin").

**SAVED PEOPLE DON'T CHOOSE A LIFESTYLE OF SIN.**

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.  
1 John 3:9 (NIV)

[Choosing to sin **won't** be an ongoing way of life!]

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.  
1 John 2:14b (NIV)

[You won't say: "I'll sin now, while I'm **young**, and then turn to God when I get **old!**"]

I NEED TO **ENDURE** THE TEMPTATION?  
HOW CAN GOD HAVE A PURPOSE IN **THAT**?

We know that **all things** work together **for the good** of those who love God, ...

**REMEMBER THAT GOD USES ALL THINGS TO ACCOMPLISH GOOD IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE!**

HOW DOES THAT APPLY TO **TEMPTATION**?

... who are called according to his purpose.  
Romans 8:28 (CSB)

**THE ISSUE INVOLVES MORE THAN JUST "TEMPTATION"**

**IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE:**

- ✓ We have different words that represent the concept – such as *tempt, test, examine*, etc.
- ✓ We tend to use the word "tempt" when it involves sin.

**IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES OF THE BIBLE:**

- ✓ They also used different words to represent the concept.
- ✓ Some words tended to be used when it involved sin, but each word can be translated different ways.

**[EXAMPLE WITH TWO NEW TESTAMENT GREEK WORDS]**

**πειράζω (peirazo):** ✓ To test, to tempt, to prove.  
✓ Often used when **bad** results are expected, or the outcome is unknown.

**δοκιμάζω (dokimazo):** ✓ To test, to prove, to examine.  
✓ Often used when **good** results are expected.

- ❖ The CONTEXT of the testing will determine which word tends to be used.
- ❖ BOTH words may describe the same event, but from different perspectives.

### Here is a passage that contains both of the words:

**Examine** yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; **test** yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?

And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the **test** but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.

2 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

✓ **EXAMINE** (peirazo): Anticipate the possibility that some will FAIL the test: Some of them might not be saved.

✓ **TEST** (dokimazo): Confident that some will PASS the test: Certain that some of them are saved. (Also, Paul passed the test.)

### Knowing this can help us develop a better perspective on trials and temptation:

Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various **trials**,

because you know that the **testing** of your faith produces endurance.

And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:2-4 (CSB)

✓ **TRIAL** (peirazo): When trials enter your life and attempt to tear you down...

✓ **TESTING** (dokimazo): It's going to be OK! The end result will be something good!

These trials are helping you to grow up in your salvation! [Applies ONLY to saved people.]

### DO I NEED TO KNOW THESE N.T. GREEK WORDS??

#1

It may be helpful...

✓ It may provide additional insights.

#2

But the answer is "NO"!

✓ The most important thing is to simply learn what Scripture says (in a language you can understand) and pay attention to the context of the verses.

✓ Bible study helps may be useful; but your #1 priority should be the Bible itself.

# THERE IS GREAT VALUE

in knowing that  
TEMPTATION / TESTING  
refers to:

A BROAD CONCEPT  
with  
DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS TO IT!

[Three examples to follow...]

### WE WON'T HAVE TO TROUBLED WHEN WE READ THAT ...

- God does not "tempt" people with evil.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

James 1:13 (NASB)

- Yet God "tested" Abraham!

Some time later God tested Abraham.

Genesis 22:1a (NIV)

➤ The context shows us that God did it for Abraham's good!

### WE CAN GAIN INSIGHTS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB ...

- And God permitted Satan to test Job.  
↳ Yet God put limits on Satan.

The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." / "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

Job 1:12a; 2:6b (NIV)

- This fact illustrates the faithfulness of God.

God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able...

1 Corinthians 10:13b (CSB)

### WE CAN BE ENCOURAGED BY WHAT HAPPENED TO JOSEPH!

- His brothers gave-in to the temptation to sell him into slavery.
  - ↳ Yet God used their *evil* to accomplish *good*.

You planned **evil** against me;  
God planned it for **good** ...

Genesis 50:20 (CSB)

- This is in agreement with Romans 8:28!

We know that **all things** work together **for the good** of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (CSB)

### SIGNIFICANCE OF "ALL THINGS" IN ROM. 8:28?

**For God's people, the devil is a failure!**  
His attacks on us will ultimately result in good for us!

- The DEVIL may bring trials ...** to tear us DOWN.
- GOD will use trials...** to build us UP.

↳ Shouldn't this influence our attitude when trials come our way?

### AND SO...

- When we can't *escape* temptation by running from it, **God's faithfulness** should encourage us.

God is faithful ...  
**... so that you may be able to bear it.**

1 Corinthians 10:13c (CSB)

- We shouldn't *pursue* trials; but when they *come* our way, **what GOD is accomplishing** should influence our attitude!

These [trials] have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:7 (NIV)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us--they help us learn to endure.

And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation.

And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

God uses trials to grow us in our salvation.

This is the same Spirit who teaches us to say "NO" to sin!

## THIS WEEK:

### FOCUS ON TWO ISSUES:

**#1 – When trials come your way, you don't have to sin!**

**#2 – God is at work in your life, even when trials come your way!**

Shouldn't these influence our attitude?

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