

Two Steps Back - Outline

September 23, 2018

Victorious living does not mean freedom from temptation.

-E. Stanley Jones

The Bible tells us that temptation can be overcome.

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12, NLT)

1. It can be _____.
2. There is a _____ for the person who endures it.
3. You will be a _____ person if you resist the pull of temptation.

God will always provide _____ for you.

If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. (1 Corinthians 10:12–13, NLT)

Even Jesus experienced the pull of temptation in his life.

What we can learn from Jesus about how to endure temptation.

1. Temptation often comes after times of _____.

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. (Luke 4:1–2a, NLT)

The enemy is waiting for the moment when you are most _____.

It's not in the _____, it's in the _____.

2. Temptation comes from _____ within us.

Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry. Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'" (Luke 4:3–4, NLT)

Part of dealing with temptation is _____ of these _____.

Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. (James 1:14–15, NLT)

3. Temptation comes to _____.

4. The best place to be when temptation comes is _____.

He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days.

Don't put yourself in a place of _____.

5. Jesus fought temptation with _____.

Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me." Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'" (Luke 4:5–8, NLT)

Fill your mind with God's _____.

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11, NLT)

6. You have power to resist temptation with _____ and _____.

In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:16–17, NLT)

7. Stay _____. There will be a _____.

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'" When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came. (Luke 4:9–13, NLT)

Deeper Study – Questions for individuals and small groups.

How would you define temptation in your own words?

What kinds of temptations do you think people face in our city and country?

Read James 1:13-15

Where do you think temptation comes from?

Discuss what this means in light of Jesus temptation in Luke 4.

Did Jesus have desires?

Does temptation come from healthy desires or from unhealthy desires?

What is the difference between temptation and sin?

What does this text tell us about how to resist temptation?

Read Genesis 4:6-7

What does this text say about where temptation comes from?

What does this story tell us about how to resist temptation?

What are some strategies you could use to resist temptation?

What works for you?

Read Luke 4:1-13

How did Jesus fight temptation?

What does that look like in your life?

How can you emulate Jesus in the way that you fight temptation?