



A fisherman baits his hook with as much deception as he can muster. He casts it into the water and waits. A hungry fish grabs the bait! He's got the bait, but he also has more than he bargained for. He's got the hook. That is how the devil deceives us. He dangles something in front of us that appeals to us. He baits the hook as deceptively as he can. You must resist temptation or temptation will set it's hook in you.

Let's answer a few questions about temptation. Where does it come from? How can we resist it? And how can I get off of the hook if I have already swallowed it hook, line, and sinker?

The Avenues of Temptation (James 1:13-15)

1. Temptation Never comes from God. (v. 13)
2. Temptation always comes from our own desires. (v.14)

Question: Is it sin to be tempted? Why or why not?

The Anatomy of Temptation (2 Samuel 11:1-4)

1. We give in to temptation when our Guard is Down. (v1)
David had just had a victory and was taking some "well-deserved" "me time." He was shirking his kingly duty of being on the battlefield.
2. We give in to temptation when we are looking for something to do. (v2)
Verse 2 seems to convey the idea that King David was bored. He was almost looking for something to do. He had nothing pressing to fill his time, and his flesh was searching for something even if he wasn't aware of it.
3. We give in to temptation when we Indulge our Curiosity about it. (v3)

David liked what he saw. He then inquired about the woman. He wasn't taking action yet, but his mind was certainly dwelling on it.

4. We give in to temptation when we Ignore the Consequences of it. (v3-4)
One of David's messengers clearly stated that Bathsheba was married. Not to just anyone, but to Uriah the Hittite. It appears that David knew this man. He was willing to sin against God and someone that He knew. It is hard to believe that David thought his sin would be without risk. He was willing to take that risk and took what did not belong to him.

The Answer To Temptation (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

1. Remember: You must be prepared for temptation. (12-13a)
2. Remember: You are not the only one! (13)
3. Remember: You are able to Resist ALL temptations that the Lord allows (suffers) in your life.
4. Remember: You are provided a way of Escape.
5. Remember: God is Faithful!

Temptation is a test of how much we believe the truth of James 1: every good gift comes from God. Temptation tries to deceive us into believing that someone or something else has a better gift for us than God does. Remember, temptation always has a hook. God's plan always has satisfaction and fulfillment. We can avoid the hook of temptation by "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Jesus faced all temptations that we face, yet He was without sin. Look to Him. He finished our faith on the cross and through His resurrection.

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