

I. What is the nature of temptation?

- A. Satan tries to lure us away from trusting God

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1)

- B. Satan mixes truth with error to try to deceive us

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was 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.” (John 8:44)

- C. Satan promises pleasure while not mentioning the inevitable pain

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction.” (Galatians 6:7-8)

II. When might temptation come?

- A. After a spiritual victory

*Picture of baptism

*Picture of desert wilderness

- B. When we are worn out

- C. When we are alone

III. What kind of temptations might we face?

- A. The temptation to distrust God’s love

*Picture of rocks in the desert

- B. The temptation to distrust God’s plan

- C. The temptation to promote yourself

*Picture of temple mount

IV. How can we defeat temptation?

- A. We should expect to be tempted

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” (Ephesians 6:11)

- B. We should spend time with God in prayer
- C. We should remember God's love for us
- D. We should be armed with the truth of God's word

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

- E. We should be filled with the Holy Spirit
- F. We should rely upon help from our Savior

“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Hebrews 2:18)