

## DEAL WITH TEMPTATION:

Here is some good news - temptation is the proving ground of every believer not just you! Temptation itself is not sin. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are – but never yielded.

“Tests and trials”, He said, “are sure to come” (Luke 17:1). There is nothing more sure! But whatever the temptation, God always provides a way of escape – never the route of least resistance but a way that is mapped out by the Word and Spirit of God.

Most of us have experienced the cream bun temptation. The longer we stand gazing in the window of the bakery at those freshly baked delicacies, inhaling the warm aromas that waft outside, the more likely we are to yield to the temptation to go in, buy and devour.

Sin works the same way but here is a truth that will help set you free:

*“Every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by **his own evil desire**” (Jas 1:14)*

**Our own evil desire** is the bait that Satan seeks to use to entrap us. When we deal with the evil desire on the inside, temptation from the outside ceases to be a problem!

Every sin, every act of rebellion against God begins with one thing - a thought of desire. It may be for revenge, for something that belongs to another or perhaps for a relationship that is illicit, but the fact remains that every unruly thought will eventually give birth to sin.

*“Evil desire, when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully matured, brings forth death” Jas. 1:15*

Evil desires and thoughts draw us away to commit the very act that will eventually lead to death

The fact of the matter is this, that we are no better than our thought life. That is why every thought must be taken captive and forced to submit to Christ. When we learn to rule our thoughts, we rule the direction of our lives and our destiny.

*Phi 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”*

Your mind is not your master! Don't allow it to dwell on anything other than 'these things' mentioned in Phil.4:8.

When temptation comes your way, face it with confidence. You are well able to stand the test. Draw near to God. Yield your mind and heart to Him. Yield to the truth of His word. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord of your life. Resist the devil and he **will** flee. This is a promise.

Always remember:

**“The torment of the temptation to sin is nothing in comparison to the torment of the consequences of sin.”**

(quote: Edwin L. Cole)