

Feeling Tempted?

Temptation is a struggle faced by every child of God. Unpleasant as they are, temptations provide a necessary component to our spiritual development. Were it not for temptation, there would be no particular virtue in doing good. There has never been, nor will there ever be, a human being beyond temptation. Even Jesus was tempted (Mt. 4:1; Hb. 4:15). How can we handle temptation in such a manner as to escape its dangers and secure its blessings? The fundamental principle for winning over temptation is faith in the power of God. Peter warns us that Satan, our adversary, "prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). But, the firm resistance of faith will defeat our enemy (1 Pet. 5:9; Jas. 4:7). Even the strongest among us face temptation. However, temptation is not sin. It is only when we yield to temptation that we transgress the will of God.

Our resource for help when tempted is beautifully described by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:13 where he writes, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13). In this passage, Paul describes the beautiful two-fold promise of God's providential aid in times of temptation.

First, there is the promise that we will not be tempted beyond our ability to endure. Peter told his readers that "the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation" (2 Pet. 2:9). God knows your breaking points and will not allow Satan access beyond what you are able to handle. At the same time, we have a God-given responsibility to fortify ourselves against Satan's attack (Eph. 6:13; Tit. 2:11-12).

Second, there is the promise that, with the temptation, God will provide the way of escape. A successful plan of action varies from circumstance to circumstance. Sometimes we are strengthened against temptation by sharing in the experiences of others who have successfully battled the same. Other times, we must flee from the temptation (2 Tim. 2:22). And, still other situations call for us to stand and fight (Jas. 4:7). But, regardless the circumstance, temptation always requires prayer and reliance on God (Mt. 6:13; 26:41). ~Glen Elliot

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting times:

Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 01/20: N/A

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 01/20 \$2312.00

January 27, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

He Offered But They Weren't Willing

Heaven had so much to offer the Jewish nation. The prophets of God were in its midst and delivered the precious words of the Bible to them (Rom. 3:1) for a thousand years. Even more than this was the fact that God longed to dwell among them, but they rejected Him in His holy temple. Finally, Jesus came and vividly illustrated all that God still had to offer them. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing" (Matt. 23:37)! The picture of distressed chicks finding shelter and warmth under the hen's wings is what God wanted so often, but the Jews "were not willing!" If Israel had listened to the Scriptures they would have known what was found under His wings.

There is loving kindness found under His wings. David said, "How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings" (Psalm 36:7). There is no doubt about the fact that His loving kindness is infinite. There is no doubt where it is found—under His wings. The tragedy is that though He longed to give it, they "were not willing!"

There is a place of refuge under His wings. The heading of Psalm 57 shows that it was written when David was hiding in a cave in order to escape from the armies of angry King Saul. His prayer begins, "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by" (Psalm 57:1). Put yourself in David's place and sense his dire circumstances. Instead of being distressed, he saw His only hope was to hide himself under the wings of God and find refuge "until these calamities have passed by." This same place of refuge was so often available for Israel but they "were not willing!"

There is joy found under His wing. "Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice" (Psalm 63:7). It makes no difference what happens outside His wings, those there can rejoice because of the help found there. The joy was available for Israel, but they "were not willing!"

There is a place for YOU under His wings. God's nature has not changed. What He offered Israel He offers to you—and even more! He so often offers the shelter under His wings. Hear His invitation and find His loving kindness, His refuge and His joy. Make sure YOU are willing! ~Dan Jenkins

Count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2

Joy is a decision, a really brave one about how you are going to respond to life

Keep These Dates in Mind	February Birthdays and Anniversaries		
02/03 First Sunday Potluck 02/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 02/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 02/15 Family Fun Night 6:00p 03/03 First Sunday Potluck 03/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 03/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 03/20 Wed. Night Soup Night 5:00p 03/31 Fifth Sunday Singing	Wanda Danley 2/1 Gary Koci 2/1 Curtis Mohr 2/1 Frank Shaw 2/1 Leland & Marilyn Davis 2/8 Linda Bills 2/14 Eric & Jeffra Slagle 2/14 Ron Stephens 2/14	Joe Botts 2/15 Buzz & Cathy Heston 2/15 Al Lindsay 2/16 Rick Freitag 2/18 Jim Preston 2/22 Josh Mendoza 2/27	
	Bible Studies		
<i>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth (Col. 3:1-2)</i>	Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.—Ephesians Wed pm – Acts 1-12	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.



Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Vern Mast, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Shawna Stephens, Tami Pennington

Betty Van Voorst fell last week and fractured her wrist. This past Saturday she went to Maple Wood Assisted Living, for six weeks. Her address is 10547 N. Reed Rd., Hayden, ID 83835. Phone Number is the same..

Anna Hopkins was buried with her Lord in Baptism on Jan. 17, 2019. What a wonderful way to start the year.

Amanda and family made it home safely. We are glad to have them back!

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

Austin and Kennadie McCrickard – Bear Valley Bible Institute

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

God Is So Good To Me - Incredibly Simple, Incredibly Profound

Sometimes the simplest of statements can make the most profound impact. Think about these familiar yet insightful lyrics, "God is so good to me." It could not be any simpler, and yet, it could not be any more profound. Six words. All of them single-syllable. Four of the words are only two letters in length. The longest word has only four letters. Let's explore its depth.

GOD. The greatest subject for any sentence! Scripture presents God as the Creator (Gen. 1:1), the Sustainer (Heb. 1:3), the Eternal (Psa. 90:2), the Unchanging (Jas. 1:17), the All-Powerful (Jer. 32:17), the All-Knowing (Psa. 147:5), the All-Present (Psa. 139:7-12), the Loving (John 3:16), the Merciful (Psa. 136), the Faithful (1 Cor. 1:9), etc., etc. There is nothing simple about "the glorious splendor of [His] majesty" (Psa. 145:5), to whom belongs "glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever" (Jude 25).

IS. The present tense verb has significance. This is not limiting the activity of God to the past (although He worked in the past), and it is not limiting the activity of God to the future (although He will work in the future). It is focusing on what God is doing right now and doing so continually!

SO. This is an adverb of degree that indicates a great extent (synonymous with "very" and "extremely"). For such a small word, this has a huge meaning. Consider just two verses: "Who is SO great a God as our God?" (Psa. 77:13). "God SO loved..." (John 3:16). This word will magnify the next word.

GOOD. God is the only one qualified to define that which is "good" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psa. 34:8). "No one is good but One, that is, God" (Matt. 19:17). And He is the one who makes "all things work together for good" (Rom. 8:28), for "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above" (Jas. 1:17).

TO. Obviously, this is a term of direction or movement, which emphasizes that God's goodness is not merely something that is characteristic of His nature and merely possessed internally by deity. Rather than harboring His goodness for Himself alone, He readies it "to" send forth.

ME. Me? What? That can't be! The Holy and awesome God (Psa. 111:9), who exists in a constant state of extreme goodness, is ready to extend and direct that goodness to...me? "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies" He has shown (Gen. 32:10). I need more time to meditate upon and learn to more fully appreciate this most profound reality! ~David Sproule

Trying to Impress

When a college class went on a cultural field trip, the instructor almost didn't recognize one of his star pupils. In the classroom she had concealed six-inch heels beneath her pant legs. But in her walking boots she was less than five feet tall. "My heels are how I want to be," she laughed. "But my boots are how I really am."

Our physical appearance doesn't define who we are; it's our heart that matters. Jesus had strong words for those masters of appearances—the super-religious "Pharisees and teachers of the law." They asked Jesus why His disciples didn't wash their hands before eating, as their religious traditions dictated (Matthew 15:1-2). Jesus asked, "Why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?" (v. 3). Then He pointed out how they had invented a legal loophole to keep their wealth instead of caring for their parents (vv. 4-6), thus dishonoring them and violating the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12).

If we obsess over appearances while looking for loopholes in God's clear commands, we're violating the spirit of His law. Jesus said that "out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality," and the like (Matthew 15:19). Only God, through the righteousness of His Son Jesus, can give us a clean heart. ~Tim Gustafson