

"Let no man say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted of God': for God cannot be tempted with evil, NEITHER TEMPTETH HE ANY MAN: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." James 1:13-14 KJV

God doesn't tempt, He tries. The difference is: Temptations entice, but trials mold. We may claim "The Devil made me do it," but our own unbelief and lust are the roots of our disobedience. "I am carnal, sold under sin...in my flesh dwelleth no good thing." We see, we want, and we partake. Satan learned this well in Eden and masterfully uses imagery to tantalize and



excite human desire. He knows we are enticed by sight and lust. He captures our souls with our own pursuit of pleasure; using our own steel to chain us. If what you want is not what God wants, it's sin, because "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Faith is obedience to God's Word. "Faith is the substance of things HOPED for, the evidence of things NOT seen. Hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? For we walk by faith, not by sight." God Word works in the unseen corridors of the soul to liberate us. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God. Faith cometh...by the Word of God. It is God (His Word) which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the Law of Faith." If I am my own law, I am doomed! "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth DEATH." I am free of death and sin as long as I believe and obey the "perfect Law of Liberty!" I'm free to take pleasure in doing right! Gold is melted to purify it. The hotter the fire, the purer the gold. Heat does not hurt the gold. God tries faith to purify it. "When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. That the trial of [my] faith, being much more precious than of gold...might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." Trials purify faith, temptations defile it. God will purify faith, not defile it. Think how Abraham felt when God asked him to sacrifice his only, the promised son, Isaac. Do you suppose he was reluctant? That is what trial is; obeying God's Word even when it hurts! The first place a hurt child goes is the parent knowing they will soothe the pain. We reap the sin we sow, but God sweetens our sorrow and binds our wounds if we repent. Repentance is return to obedience. Don't blame God for trouble you created, through unbelief! God's Word says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." There is a "Balm in Gilead"; believing obedience to a Loving God!

Our lust to sin will chain us down,
And take from us the Victor's crown,
If we would only look away,
Temptation's lure would have no sway. ~CGP

Obedience to Truth keeps us from places, things, and thoughts that lure to the deadly trap of lust, sin, and death.

"And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:15-17 KJV