



What's at Stake?

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Two reasons why Matthew wrote this in this Gospel.

- To show Jesus' victory over temptation, sin, and Satan.
- To show us how to beat temptation, sin, and Satan.

The Preparation

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

(Matthew 4:1-2)

A Few Ways to be Prepared for Temptation

Pray Always

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

(1 Chronicles 16:11)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. *(1 John 5:14)*

Read the Bible Often

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. *(Joshua 1:8)*

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness... *(2 Timothy 3:16)*

The Temptations

Tempt: To entice to evil, to test

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Lust of the Flesh

If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread. (*Matthew 4:3*)

On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” (*Luke 22:40*)

Pride of Life

“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” (*Matthew 4:6*)

The Pride of Life is anything that exalts us above our station, giving the illusion of, God-like qualities.

When you Test God, you are not Trusting God

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... (*Proverbs 3:5*)

Lust of the Eyes

“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”
(*Matthew 4:9*)

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.
(*1 John 2:16*)

Jesus’ Victory

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (*Matthew 4:11*)

Bottom Line:

**Defend yourself with the Word of God
and Just Say No!**

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1. What are some temptations that God has helped you beat?
2. What are some temptations that you still struggle with?
3. **Read James 1:13:** If God cannot be tempted with evil, why did He allow the devil to tempt Jesus in the wilderness?
4. **Read James 1:14:** James uses the word, "dragged." Why do you think he described temptation this way? What can we learn about temptation from James in the verse?
5. Talk about what it means to be "enticed" as described in **James 1:14**.
6. How can we as Christians help others with temptation?
7. **Read Luke 4:13:** What is Luke telling us about temptation in this verse.
8. Darin talked about being prepared for temptation to come. What are some ways that we can not only be prepared for temptation, but how can we help other be prepared?

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (**1 Corinthians 10:13**)

Let this verse be an encouragement to you. Know that whatever temptation comes your way, with the help of Jesus, you can overcome it.