

TESTING IN THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE (part two) **(Testing by Satan)**

Notice that the words, trials and temptations, are used six times and a marker in our lesson text (James 1:12-14). It is the Greek word peirazo (verb) and peirasmos (noun).

The Greek word Peirasmos means to test or to assess something to determine its true value.

We will examine our lesson text by three homiletic points of Testing in the Christian Way of Life.

(James.1:12) Testing by God

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord^[a] has promised to those who love him.

(James 1:13) **Testing (not by God) but by Satan**

No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one.

(James 14-15) Testing by one's lust trends of their Old Sin Nature

But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

False assumption: "Let no one (medeis/ nsm) say (lego/ p.a. imp) when he is tempted (peirazo/ p.a.ptc), (hoti) 'I am being tempted (peirazo/ p.p.ind) by (apo+abl. of source) God';

True doctrine: "for (causal gar) God is (eimi/ p.a.ind) un tempted (apeirastos) by evil (kakos/ abl. of source pl.m (Heb.4:15; 2 Cor.5:21), and He Himself does not tempt (peirazo/ p.a.ind.3ps) anyone (oudeis) [negative pronoun/ asm]." (Jas.1:13; Rom.12:21)

This lesson will study four aspects of how Satan tempts believers and how to defeat him.

1. The key issue presented in our lesson text regarding Testing in Christian Way of Life is the source and result of each of the three areas of testing.

- **If it is by God**, it is good.
 - It is rewarded by crowns and rewards (1:12; 1 Cor.3:10-15).
- **If it is by Satan**, it is evil (1:13).
 - It results in destruction (1 Pet.5:8) (katapino) [To devour, to consume by eating piece by piece).
- **If it is by Old Sin Nature**, it is personal sin (1:14-15).
 - It involves a process of being drawn away and enticed by one's lust to sin; and if sin is not confessed, it leads to death (1 John 1:9; 5:16; Heb.12:5-11).

2. Satan tempts believers by solicitation to evil by cunning deceit.

(2 Cor.11:2-3) “For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, our minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”
(Eph.5:23-25, 32-33)

Solicitation to evil is designed to get the believer to think and act against the revealed Directive Will of God (Peter) (Matt.16:21-23)

Paul used Eve as an example (Gen.3:1-6). God made Eve without a fallen nature or an Old Sin Nature and lived in a perfect environment with God as her Bible teacher - with only Satan as an adversary in life.
(Gen.2:16-17)

(Gen.3:13) “Then the Lord said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ And the woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ (1 Tim.2:14; Rev.12:4, 9; 20:2)

3. Satan has schemes and reconnaissance designed to take advantage of the believer.

- **Schemes:** “So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan for **we are not ignorant** of his schemes.” (2 Cor.2:5-11) (1 Cor.5)
- **Reconnaissance:** “The Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ then Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it. The Lord said to Satan, ‘**Have you considered My Servant Job?** For there is **no one like him on the earth**, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.’ Then Satan answered the Lord, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’ **Have you not made a hedge about his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.**” (Job 1:7-10)

4. Paul explained in military terms how to personally defeat Satan whether it a long or short Angelic Conflict in (Eph.6:10-17).

When Satan attacked Jesus in (Matt.4:1-11), Jesus referred to him as The Tempter (ho peirazon) (Matt.4:3).

Jesus defeated Satan in **hand to hand combat** with the sword of the Word of God and the Indwelling Holy Spirit, the same resources that we have access to – to defeat him. (1 John 4:4; Eph.6:17; 1 John 2:14).

(Eph.6:11) “Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm (6:13, 14, 10) against the schemes of the devil.”

(Rom.12:21) “Do not be overcome (nikao) [The loss of victory] by evil but **overcome evil with good.**”
(Lk.18:19; John 16:33)