

Introduction: Victory over Satan depends largely upon our understanding of temptation.

1. WHERE DOES TEMPTATION COME FROM?

- a. God is obviously not the source (James 1:13).
- b. Satan plays an enormous role (Matt. 4:1-3, Rev. 12:9).
- c. Human desire gives birth to sin (James 1:14-15).

2. HOW DOES SATAN USE DESIRE?

- a. Desires can be good (1 Timothy 3:1).
- b. Desires must be considered within the context of God's plans (Prov. 16:9).
- c. Desires must not control us (1 Cor. 6:12).
- d. Desires must be ruled over (Genesis 4:6-7).
- e. Desires must be dealt with before sinful lust takes over (Matt. 5:27-28).
- f. Desires unchecked give Satan the power to take captive (2 Tim. 2:26).

3. HOW DOES SATAN USE DECEPTION?

- a. He uses our desires to draw us away and entice us (James 1:14-15).
- b. He gets us to question God (Genesis 3:1-3).
- c. He causes us to think we're missing out on something (Genesis 3:4-6).
- d. He clouds our minds and darkens our hearts (Romans 1:21).
- e. He can't take us from God's hand, but seduces us into leaving (John 10:27-28).

CONCLUSION: Temptation gets its power by persuading you to believe that you will be happier if you follow it, instead of trusting in God's faithfulness (1 Cor. 10:13).