

Temptation_Leads us not into temptation_Common unto men | Pastor Rich Kanyali

Temptation

A. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION — Matthew 6:13 *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:”*

- a) This appears and sounds as though God leads us into temptation. Not true!
- b) Note: Jesus was NOT literary saying that we should pray to the Father not to lead us into temptation, because HE does. The Father would no more lead us into temptation than He would lead us to Sin or than He would withhold our daily bread. What this passage is teaching is a request for guidance to delivered from evil.
- c) The word **“lead”** speaks to a seeking of guidance not to fall into temptation or keeping from temptation and/or evil (John 17:15). This guidance is from temptation which we enter in (Matthew 26:41) and fall (James 1:2) into.

If someone asked you to *“see to it or guide or lead me so that I do not get hurt.”* Does that mean you hurt people? NO! They are simply seeking my help and/or protection so they do not get hurt.

B. John 17:15 *I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.* (Emphasis mine)

- a) Question for you: Who delivers us from evil based on Jesus' prayer in John 17:15? God.

 - b) Furthermore, let us reason: If it is God who leads us into temptation as you have been taught to believe, then He wouldn't have prayed that God keep us from the evil. It would be a contradiction.

 - c) We are not to be taken out of this world. With all the issues and difficulties we have, God's will is to keep us from evil.
- C. Matthew 26:41 **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**
- a) Notice that we **enter into** temptation. It is not God that puts us into temptation.

 - b) He went on to give a solution: Watching and praying is a solution to not enter into temptation.
- D. James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- a) Notice that it is not God who puts us in or through temptation. We fall into it.

If you believe otherwise would contradict many scriptures like some below:

E. Who is the TEMPTER?

The scriptures below contrary to what some believe, prove that it is SATAN that is the TEMPTER, not God.

- a) James 1:13 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:

- b) Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

This tempter was Satan himself. It was not God that sent him to tempt the Lord, but because Jesus was in a fallen world, temptation was going to come to Him anyway.

- c) 1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

F. EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT — James 1:13-15 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. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- i) These verses start by admonishing us not to say that we are tempted of God.
- ii) God is a good God and tempts no man with evil. This would fly in the face of those who think and teach otherwise.
- iii) These verses reveal that every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. It doesn't say that he is tempted by God. Why would these verses tell us not to err? It is because people err all the time saying that they are tempted of God.
- iv) We see from these scriptures what truly comes from God.
- v) Every good and every perfect gift is from God. Not every bad and imperfect gift but every good and perfect gift. This clearly shows the nature and the goodness of God.

vi) No evil proceeds from God, but only good. Bad things happen and do exist in the world we live in, but it is an error to say that these things come from God.

vii) These verses continue to say that God doesn't give good, and then another day give bad—no! There is no variableness in Him nor shadow of turning.

viii) He is a good God all the time. Sickness, poverty, disease, misery, oppression, suffering, hunger, death, loss, are all not good gifts but bad gifts and therefore come not from God but Satan (John 10:10).

- o Conversely, Health, healing, victory, peace, salvation, life, provision, food, shelter and so many other good things come from God. The simplest way to say it is that, if it's good, it's God and if it's bad, it's the devil. In the word "good" you find the word "God" and in the word "devil," you find the "evil."

G. 1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Note: It is not a sin to be tempted; rather, it is a sin to yield to temptation.

What this passage does not say or teach:

1. Wrong 1 — "Temptation and hardship are unique."

There is no special situation. It is common. Your problem, hardship, and situation is **common**. Some struggle with this because they want to feel that their situation is more unique thereby drawing more sympathy and pity.

This belief of a unique situation and temptation is a lie intended to cause **isolation** and **hopelessness**.

2. Wrong 2 — "Temptation is from God."

Temptation is universal and cannot just be removed. Why? We live in a fallen world where they exist, but God provides us with ways of escape when we encounter them.

Jesus Himself was also tempted (Matthew 4). and God provided Him a way of escape—
The WORD! It is written.

#Truth — The passage does not say or teach that God gives temptation or hardship
nor imply that God sends temptation or hardship to teach us.

- i) James 1:13-17 (Let no man say when he is tempted) People say, so the Word tells them no to say that. Why? Because it is inaccurate.
 - ii) Matthew 4:3 – Satan the tempter
 - iii) 1 Thessalonians 3:5 Satan the tempter
 - iv) James 4:7 – Resist the devil—the source of temptation
 - v) Matthew 26:41
 - vi) John 17:15
 - vii) Matthew 6:13 God does not lead us in temptation. He rather delivers us out of it.
3. Wrong 3 — “God is faithful although temptation comes from Him.” God is just faithful even when it comes, we can count on Him and His faithfulness to intervene because **“He can’t give you what you cannot handle.”** (The most common belief of this passage).

#Truth — While temptation happens to all of us (It is common), but we have God on our side who is faithful.

- a) Romans 8:28 reveals and teaches that He does not allow or cause but rather He will **intervene and redeem the situation**. How? By ensuring we are not tempted beyond our ability.
- b) He doesn’t just sit by and watch. He is faithful to intervene. This intervention is not removing the situation but providing us with an escape.
- c) By faith, we would have to exercise our freewill to take the escape He provides.

Example: It is more like a parent letting his children face the world that is full of bad things such as hardship, pain, loss, suffering, hurt, and misery — not because they brought it or caused it, but because it is the kind or type of world we have and all of us have to go through [*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man:*].

While the kids go through it, the father is on standby waiting to intervene [*but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;*] should it get out of control and they cannot handle or endure it anymore [*temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*"]

- a) He does not remove them from the world but instead offers a way out for them to escape.
- b) In other words, God who does not cause or allow any of the temptations and will not just sit by and let temptation or hardships overtake us. He is so faithful that He will do something about it — provide a way of escape.

Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 **But I have prayed for thee**, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. The way of escape for Peter was Jesus had prayed for him.

#Truth — The common belief and interpretation “He won’t give you more than you can handle” is a misinterpretation and dangerously misleading.

It causes people to accept bad gifts — such as sickness, disease, suffering, hardships, etc.

God only gives good gifts, as seen in John 10:10, Luke 13:11-13, and James 1:16-17. Temptation, on the other hand, is **not** a gift from God. We know what God gives according to John 10:10; Luke 13:11-13; and James 1:16-17—only good and good gifts. Temptation is not good.

4. Wrong 4 — God controls or causes the temptation. “God will not suffer or allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to—because He is the one behind or in control of the temptation.” That’s not true!

#Truth — **Temptation is universal and cannot just be removed. Why not?**

- 1) Living in a fallen world Joh 16:33; Romans 8:35; 1 Thessalonians 3:4; 1 Peter 2:19 (Suffering wrongfully); 2 Timothy 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions.
- 2) The work of the devil John 10:10; Luke 13:11-16; Acts 10:38; Isaiah 14:12-173)
- 3) Our own decisions to yield to the flesh (Romans 6:16; James 1:14; James 4:1-3).

James 4:1-3 From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

God rather provides us with a way of escape when we encounter temptation. Jesus Himself was also tempted (Matthew 4). God did not remove it., but simply provided a way of escape.

He did not tempt Him or ask the devil to tempt Him, temptation was inevitable in this fallen world.

Look for and look out for a way of escape that God provides such as **fleeing** (1 Corinthians 10:14) and take it by faith. You have to take it. All He does is offer it, your part is to take it.

5. Wrong 5 — "God allows temptation only to a certain point and then when we can't bear it, He makes a way of escape."
 - a) "God is watching so we learn from it till the breaking point and will rescue us.

These ideas are false. We by now know He does not cause or allow it. He does not lead us into temptation but rather delivers us (Matthew 6:13).

Many interpretations, such as "God allows temptation," that people have contradicted many passages listed below which all reveal that temptation is not from God, but the devil (Satan).

- i) James 1:13 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:
- ii) Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
- iii) 1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.
- iv) James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- v) Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.
- vi) John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.
- vii) Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

What this verse does teach:

1. God is a deliverer from temptation that is common to all men. Key point

- a) 2 Corinthians 1:10 Who **delivered** us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;
- b) Romans 8:28 — **Working out all things for our good.** Not working things for our good. He intervenes to redeem and change the situation He had no part in nor any doing.
- c) 1 Peter 1:5 **Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.
- d) 2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to **deliver** the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
- e) Provides grace as a way of escape (deliverance): 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.
- f) 2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall **deliver** me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- g) 2 Timothy 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord **delivered** me.