

# The Christian Arsenal

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## HOW TO WIN OVER TEMPTATION Developing a Faith That Works

Dr. Ken Culver

Part 4 of 7  
James 1:12-18

**INTRO:** Man's eldest problem: temptation

Oscar Wilde said, "I can withstand anything except temptation."

The Bible talks about two different kinds of testing:

- Trials – situations designed by God in order to help us grow. Greek – "peirasmos"
- Temptations – situations designed by the devil in order to cause us to sin.

*"Blessed is the man who endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him."*  
James 1:12 (KJV)

### HOW CAN I WIN OVER TEMPTATION?

#### 1. **BE REALISTIC** (v. 13a)

Face the fact – you will be tempted.

*"...when tempted ..."* (v. 13a)

*"no temptation has seized you except what is common to man..."* I Cor. 10:13

It is not a sin to be tempted – it is a sin to give in to temptation.

*"Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are yet he sinned not."* Hebrews 4:15

Temptation proves you're human, not that you're evil!

#### 2. **BE RESPONSIBLE** (v. 13b)

Don't blame other people for your problems.

*"When tempted, no one should say, God is tempting me. For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone."* (v. 13b)

Will Rogers said, "You can summarize American history into two great movements: the passing of the buffalo and the passing of the buck."

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If the Bible says something and you say something different – you're wrong!

## 3. **BE READY** (vv 14-15)

Peter says, *"Be on your guard..."*

Jesus said, *"Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation."*

Paul said, *"Put on the whole armor of God."*

*"Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires, he is dragged away and enticed. Don't be deceived my dear brothers..."* (v. 14)

*"In order that Satan might not outwit us, we are not unaware of his schemes."* 2 Cor. 2:11

### 1. **The first step of temptation is desire.**

*"Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires ..."* (v. 14)

Desires are God-given, but any desire out of control becomes destructive.

Satan loves to take routine desires and turn them into runaway desires.

### 2. **The second step is deception.**

*"...He is dragged away and enticed..."* (v. 14)

"dragged away" literally means "snared in a trap"

"enticed" literally means "lured by bait."

### 3. **The third step is disobedience.**

*"...Then after desire has conceived it gives birth to sin."*(v. 15)

First the devil gets your attention then he gets you to have an attitude then he gets you to commit the action.

What you flirt with, you will fall for.

### 4. **The final step is death.**

*"Sin, when full grown gives birth to death."*

I can choose to live anyway I want to, but I am not free to choose the consequences of the choices.

I am free to have my kicks but I am not free to eliminate the kickbacks.

## 4. **BE REFOCUSED**.

*"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights Who does not change like shifting shadows."* (v. 17)

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If temptation begins with our inner thoughts then changing what we think is the key to overcoming it – It is the principle of replacement.

*“Think on these things, things that are good, positive, just, honest ...” Phil 4:8*

Refocus on God’s promises in His Word:

*“I will bless the Lord at all times ...” “His praise will continually be in my mouth.” “This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad.” “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

Get God’s word in your mind and refocus. Quit fighting the feeling. What you resist – persists.

If you don’t want to be stung – get away from the bees.

*“Bad compnay corrupts good character.” I Cor. 15:33*

## 5. **BE REBORN**

*“He chose to give us birth through the Word of truth that we might be a kind of first fruit of all that he created.”*

The single most iimportant principle in breaking bad habits and getting control of your life is to let God have control of it.

You will not be able to say no to temptation until you first learn to say yes to God.

*“...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 you can stand up under it.” I Cor. 10:13*

God never puts more on you – than He puts in you.

Martin Luther said, “We cannot keep the birds from flying over us, but we can keep them from making a nest in our hair.”

## **RESOURCES NEEDED TO FIGHT TEMPTATION**

1. Fellowship with other Christians.
2. Get into God’s Word.