

How We Tempt the Devil to Tempt Us

Deception:	Discerning:	Disarming:
We tempt the devil to tempt us when...	We overcome by discerning the hidden lies...	...and by replacing these lies with God's truth, thus disarming the power of the devil.
(1) we play with Satan's toys. Deut. 18:8-14	The occult world provides reliable guidance for living	The occult world is ruled by Satan, the destroyer, but God's kingdom is ruled by Jesus Christ, the life-giver.
(2) we think we possess immunity to temptation on our strong points. 1 Cor. 10:12	We can trust in our-selves and our own abilities, thinking, and strength	We can overcome only by help from outside ourselves through Jesus Christ.
(3) we break the 2 nd commandment, thus making room for unclean spirits which hide behind our idols. Exo. 20:4-6; Rev. 18:2.	We can find fulfillment for our ultimate needs by doing our own thing, thus replacing God with an idol.	Only Jesus Christ provides satisfaction for our deepest needs by placing inside of us "a fountain of living water."
(4) we exhibit a critical and condemning spirit. Rev. 12:10	Criticism of others can be a subtle way of asserting our pride that we are <u>not</u> like those we criticize.	Criticism destroys our capacity to acknowledge and confess our own shortcomings. Criticism of others contaminates the criticizer. Abandoning criticism is essential to health and wholeness.
(5) we justify our impressions as having divine origin though they lead us in paths contrary to Scriptural principles. Prov. 3:4,5; 1 Sam. 15:22,23	Impressions provide a direct line "from God to me" which I can totally trust.	Our only safety is in Scripture and "thus saith the Lord" for the sword of the Spirit is the word of God. Impressions through the Spirit will never contradict what the Spirit has already spoken in Scripture.
(6) we neglect to deal with grievances and hurts and harbor bitterness and unforgiveness. Eph. 4:26-27.	It is better to store the hurt than to confront.	Stored hurts fester and rot and provide fertile soil where lies about self, God, and others grow, thus giving the devil a foothold. Only by receiving God's forgiveness and by forgiving others can we be healed.
(7) we use the devil's methods to do God's work. Rev. 12 & 13. (The Lamb vs. the beast)	We can enhance our lives by controlling and having power over others.	God's path to greatness is through serving others.
(8) we disrupt God-ordained unity in marriage. 1 Cor. 7:5.	Disunity is preferable to self-sacrifice.	Unity glorifies God and provides an avenue for His fullness of blessing to flow into our lives.
(9) we do not defer gratification by saying 'no.' Matthew 16:24	My happiness is found in having it my way and having it now. Self-discipline and self-sacrifice will not work.	God's greatest blessing have come to people who accepted His saying 'no.' Sufferings and discomforts are opportunities for God to show His power and for us to grow in character.
(10) when we violate God's structures of authority. Eph. 5:22-33.	It is demeaning to self to have to submit to others.	Success in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6) is directly related to being in correct alignment with all authorities in our lives. (Eph. 5). [No successful battle can be fought when the soldiers are out of formation]. By submission to authority, our spiritual authority against the forces of darkness is established through Christ.
(11) when we do not guard the senses which are the gateways to the heart. Prov. 4:23	I can trust my senses and I am the final judge of what is best for me.	Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Indiscriminate sensory input destroys spiritual discernment. Jesus Christ will restore impaired discernment through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(12) when we seek to obtain salvation by our own works. Gal. 3:1 (who has bewitched you?)	It is too humbling to have to give up on myself.	Only those who accept God's free gift of salvation provided at the cross have access to the continuing benefits of the blood of Christ. The enemy flees wherever the blood of Christ is applied and claimed.