

The Anatomy of Temptation

Pastor Donna Shelton

In these teachings, week by week, we are _____ exposing the enemy's devices so that we are not ignorant of them and how he uses them against us in order to gain an _____ over us, as Paul said in **2 Cor. 2:11**

We have put those fingerprints into the database of _____ and have matched those fingerprints with the enemy sent against us.

The names of ones we have already identified are: Strongholds, Offense, Judgment, Criticism, Condemnation, and _____.

Tonight we are going after a ring-leader, the instigator of all rebellion and evil against our God and His Christ...number one on the "most wanted" list under Satan himself...
_____.

Spurgeon said, "Satan has a deadly hatred towards all good men; and they may rest assured that, somewhere or other, he will meet them on their way to the Celestial City..."

The fight with Apollyon is a terrible ordeal, -- an ordeal, however, which a **brave Christian will never think of shirking**. Nay, rather will he rejoice that he has an enemy worthy of his steel, that true Damascus blade with which he is armed; and, **in the name of God**, he will determine, though he wrestles not with flesh and blood, that he will contend against principalities and powers, and with the very leader of them all, **that there may be all the more glory to the great King who makes the weakest of His followers to be so strong that they put the old dragon himself to flight**. So, dear friends, rest assured that Satan hates every good man, and that, some time or other, he is pretty sure to show that hatred in a very cruel and deadly attack upon him.

Temptation operates in _____ with one single minded purpose. That purpose is straight from the hate-filled heart of Satan against every human made in the image of God. He has used this purpose from the beginning when he enticed a third of the angels to follow his rebellion, in the garden to get Eve to sin, Cain to murder, Abraham to lie, David to commit adultery, Peter to deny the Lord, _____.

Look at temptation's _____ so it can be easily recognized anywhere, anytime.

Name: Temptation.

- **Description: Enticement...**to skillfully _____ by arousing _____ which is a strong feeling with intent to have, reaching out after or toward whatever I am being attracted to. **James 1:14** But each one is **tempted** when he is _____ by his _____ and enticed.(skillfully attracted by arousing even more desire _____)
- **Temptation is enticement _____ . What is "wrong"?** anything not right or proper according to a code or moral standard. Those can vary from person to person and culture to culture. **The uniform standard and moral code is _____.**
- Temptation arouses desire in us to do wrong against the Bible **by promise of _____** (it feels good, it will make you feel better, it will makes you happy, it will be good for you...all lies)

What is a severe temptation to me may have absolutely no affect on another person, and vice versa, so I must _____ judge, criticize or condemn anyone for any temptation they have yielded to resulting in sin....but I must earnestly love and _____ and encourage them until they are free and strong.

"Walk a mile in my shoes..."

Temptation begins early in our life seeking to put its _____ in as many areas of our life as possible.

Remember the first time you were tempted to _____ as a child. If that action went undealt with or unpunished, the thumbprint of that _____ remained in you and it was followed by another temptation to disobey, then another.

That temptation to disobey will always come back around and look for its thumbprint, when it finds it, it presses it again and **entices/tempts** another disobedience, adding a fingerprint and again to get another finger print and more to get to a palm print, and again and again to gain a stronghold of habitual disobedience for the ultimate purpose of undermining **God's authority in your life**. If you grew up defiant, and self willed, don't think you will automatically become "pliant" to the will of God for your life when you become a Christian. You have willful, disobedient fingerprints all over your soul and though you are forgiven from the sin, you have to have those fingerprints erased and cleansed by a thorough washing with the water of the Word.

*Temptation has stalked you, biding it's time. You thought it was gone, it was lagging behind
Drooling with hunger to snare you once more, enticing you always to open the door*

*With thoughts not controlled, it creeps right on in. aiming to fester and manifest sin
Driven by malice, a stronghold to build, till your heart and thought-life with evil are filled*

*Sin wants to have you, and you have a choice, heaven and hell waits the sound of your voice
If there is silence, hell knows it has won, it means you are weakening and considering some*

*Your flesh will join in and add all of its weight, the scales are now tipped; it is almost too late
I am imprisoned by your choice and your will, My heart weeps within you and draws you until*

*The scales of deception are taken away, and seeing your sin, you fall down and pray
Open your eyes now, look in My face, you thought you'd see anger; you will see grace*

*I made you, remember, you're My heart's desire, I know all your weakness and I'll never tire
Of lifting you always, whenever you fall, I hear your heart cry, even when you don't call*

*The wonder of grace is that it can't be earned, My love never wavers where you are concerned
At your best or your worst all My thoughts are the same; It's with passionate longing that I speak your name
Run, dear one, run, throw yourself on My grace, depend on My mercy, don't turn from My face
My arms are outstretched as I call you with love, I'll restore and refresh you with peace from above*

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Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 **"But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."** (NKJ)

The ultimate purpose of all temptation is to_____.

Extra notes to study:

James 1:12-15, 21 12 Blessed is the man who endures ***temptation**; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 21 Therefore **lay aside** all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Strong's – temptation - from 3985; **a putting to proof** by : 1. experiment of good, by 2. experience of evil, by : 3. solicitation, by 4. discipline, by 5. provocation, by 6. implication, by 7. adversity:

Ephesians 4:27; Eph 6:11; James 4:1-10; 1 Pet 5:5-11 8 **Be careful-- watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart. 9 Stand firm when he attacks. Trust the Lord; and remember that other Christians all around the world are going through these sufferings too. 10 After you have suffered a little while, our God, who is full of kindness through Christ, will give you his eternal glory. He personally will come and pick you up, and set you firmly in place, and make you stronger than ever.**

11 To him be all power over all things, forever and ever. Amen. (TLB)

Matt 26:41 **Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you.** For the spirit indeed is willing, but how weak the body is!" (TLB)