

A Test Of Your Faith

Tempting? Part Two

Pastor Ken Ritz * October 29, 2017 * New Life Vineyard Church

Review of Week One:

- Every temptation I face in some way impacts my future, and almost certainly will impact my (current or future) family.
- Most of us can think back to a time when our mom or dad fell into serious temptation, handled it wrong, and the whole family suffered.
- In the midst of temptation, I always think the temptation only affects right now... but there's always a lot more at stake than I think.

Our statement to overcome temptation:

***Temptation, you will not steal my future,
you will not steal my family,
and you will not steal my faith.***

**Temptation is always a test of my _____,
not just my self-control.**

- The first temptation Jesus faced was the temptation to meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way... that is always a test of our faith.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:1-4 TNIV

The real issue faced by Jesus:

***"Will I trust my heavenly father to provide,
or will I take things into my own hands,
and meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way?"***

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that people do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Deut. 8:2 TNIV

God's purpose for feeding them with manna was not just to provide food. He didn't want them to ever forget the principle:

- **God is faithful**
- **God can be trusted**
- **God provides for my needs**

Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery...

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, Deuteronomy 8:11-18

Every time the temptation comes to bend or break or ignore the rules to get what I want, or have what I need, it's the equivalent of saying, God, I don't trust you... it is a test of my faith.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 TNIV