

# Cooperator Or Manipulator?

## *Tempting? Part Three*

Pastor Ken Ritz \* November 5, 2017 \* New Life Vineyard Church

Review:

Every time you're tempted there are 3 things at stake.

1. Your future: There are times in your past when you gave into temptation, and that has impacted where you are in life today.
2. Your family: Some of the things that you're dealing with now are a result of temptations your parents gave into and wrong choices they made, that affected the whole family.
3. Your faith: Temptation is a test of your faith, not just your self-control.

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.***

Satan's first temptation of Jesus was to turn stones to bread: i.e. to meet a legitimate need on his own, rather than trusting God to provide. The key question: Will I trust God to meet my needs, at the right time, in the right way?

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Temptation Is To \_\_\_\_\_ On God.**  
(confusing faith with manipulation)

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."*

Matthew 4:5

(Note: Satan's quote is from Psalm 91:11,12)

Examples:

- A single person marries an unbeliever, assuming that God will bless the marriage.
- A couple is irresponsible with their money, then run to God for help and assume God will bail them out of their problems.

*The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Moses called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"*

Exodus 17:1-7

*Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. Deuteronomy 6:16*

*Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Matthew 4:6

**As Christians, we've been called to \_\_\_\_\_  
with God, not manipulate God.**

2 Results When We Try To Manipulate God

1. \_\_\_\_\_ with God
2. Inability to \_\_\_\_\_

*God speaks the loudest to the soul that is surrendered to Him.*

Key Question: When you think about:

- your prayers,
  - your response to negative circumstances,
  - your attitude when you're tempted,
- are you a cooperator or a manipulator?