

1 Fighting Temptation

2 Sermon Review

3 Wait for the Lord!

- Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalms 37:7 NIV)
- Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret — it leads only to evil. . . . but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land. (Psalms 37:8–9 NIV)
- Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever. For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. (Psalms 37:27–28 NIV)

4 Wait for the Lord!

- I wait for your salvation, O LORD, and I follow your commands. (Psalms 119:166 NIV)
- I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word (promise and counsel) I put my hope. (Psalms 130:5 NIV)
- Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. (Isaiah 64:4 NIV)

5 Keep in Mind!

- So then, when we are going through trials, let us remember the following key points.
 - God is faithful and will bring us out of trouble in due time.
 - However, we will need to use our faith to resist the temptation to give up on God and start reacting in ways that not only make matters worse, but also put the promises of God in jeopardy.
 - This is where Satan likes to play the most.

6 The Devils Schemes

- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12 NIV)
- In other words, there are organized invisible entities around us who are carefully putting together customized plans to get us to compromise our faith, so that God's promises can't be fulfilled in our lives.

- His chief method to accomplish this is to create misunderstandings and suspicions (usually brought on by disobedient or immature people) that produce frustration and anxiety in us where we develop all kinds of unspiritual attitudes and responses.

7 High Anxiety

8 Our Defense

- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. (Ephesians 6:10–11 NIV)
- . . . you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13 NIV)
- And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)
- With this in mind, be alert . . . (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)

9 Be on High Alert!

- So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. (1 Thessalonians 5:6 NIV)
- Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, (1 Peter 5:8–9 NIV)
- “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” (Matthew 26:41 NIV)
- Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7:5 NIV)
- And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:13 NIV)

10 The Devil

Made Me Do It!

11 Be on High Alert!

- “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.” (Matthew 7:15 NIV)

- Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. (Acts 20:30–31 NIV)
- “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” (Mark 8:15 NIV)
- He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. (Luke 21:8 NIV)
- Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:36 NIV)

12 The Evil One

- So where does Satan work his best.
 - When we are asleep and not alert.
 - When we fail to pray and build ourselves up in the faith with sound doctrine.
 - When we don’t practice self-control.
 - When we are frustrated, anxious, and upset because of our circumstances and refuse to “wait on the LORD.”

13 Divine Power

- He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. (Luke 10:18–19 NIV)
- My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (John 17:15 NIV)
- We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. (1 John 5:18 NIV)

14 Summary

- The only thing the devil can do to us is tempt us to give in to evil.
- He knows that when get us to give into temptation we lose our hedge of protection and God can’t fulfill promises or purposes for our life.
- At this stage, we typically want to point fingers at someone other than ourselves. (i.e., Adam blames Eve)

- However, if we humble ourselves before the Lord and take responsibility and pledge to Him our desire to change; forgiveness, mercy, and grace will be poured out to us.
- For we serve a compassionate and merciful God who is abounding in love.