

3rd December 2017

## The actions of a believer (Pt.8) Live in the knowledge of the devil's device of temptation.

This is our eighth study on this topic. We previously covered Satan's device of delay, the believer's armour that protects them, and the weapons they use to attack. In this study we will cover the devil's device of temptation, our armour against temptation is the word of God, and our weapons are mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Live in the knowledge of the tempters device of temptation.

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil...And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Matt.4:1 & 3).

See also Mk.1: 13 & 1Thes.3: 5.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (Jas 1:13 & 14). Paul acknowledges the role the tempter in tempting believers (1Thes. 3: 5), but nevertheless man chooses to be drawn away of his own lusts and enticed.

### 2. Our armour against the tempter's device of temptation is the word of God.

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt.4: 4). See also Lk.4: 4, 7, 8, 10.

The Lord Jesus Christ when He was tempted by the tempter used the sword of the Spirit (Eph.6: 17), which is "quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb.4: 12).

### 3. Our weapons against temptation are mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" (2Cor.10: 4).

Additional comments on our three points.

The lust for money, the internet (with its "evil net" to snare – Eccl.9: 12), excess of wine are all ungodly and worldly things that the heart of man lusts after (Rom.1: 24).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

King David was tempted – when "from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman...And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her" (2Sam.11: 2 – 4).

Question to think about.

How could a man that God Almighty appointed to be king over His people Israel, and was said to have a heart that was "perfect with the Lord his God" (1Kgs.15: 3) be tempted and succumb?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (Jam.1: 14), when he obeys the lusts of his heart (Rom.6: 12), and so makes "provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom.13: 14). The Lord Jesus used the word of God as armour against the tempter when he was tempted. Let us be vigilant and live in the knowledge of Satan's device of temptation and the armour and weapons that the scriptures provide, and use the sword to rebuke the devil and deny (Tit.2: 12), and "abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1Pet.2: 11). Amen!