



## Sermon Title: The Temptations

by: Pastor Sheldon Williams

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11

1. Every temptation provides a consequence. The result depends on our response.
2. When temptations arise, they do so with a hungering for a response.
3. Temptation tries to motivate us to accomplish a short-term goal without consideration of the long-term impact.
4. God permits us to be tempted, but He doesn't produce them.
5. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. [James 1:13]
6. Our human weakness can provide an opportunity for the display of our spiritual strength.
7. An individual cannot fully satisfy self and fully satisfy God; to do one means you have decided to disappoint the other.
8. There are times when temptations are masquerading as invitations to explore what has already been entertained.
9. Temptations are the influencers that encourage human "selfies" - selfishness, self-gratification, and self-empowerment.

## Growth Group Questions

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#### PRE-GAME

1. What do you normally like to do after church on Saturday or Sunday and why?

#### KICK-OFF

1. Do you have a process or method for resisting temptation? If so, what is it and how does it help?
2. How often do you experience temptation? What are the most difficult temptations for you to resist and why?
3. Describe a recent time you were tempted to sin. Were you able to overcome the temptation or did you give-in to it? How did you deal with the victory or the defeat?
4. On a scale of 1-10, to what degree are you permitting the Holy Spirit to lead your life? Are you content with your answer or does something need to change? Explain.
5. Are you more susceptible to selfishness, self-gratification, or self-empowerment and why?
6. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today and why?

#### THE PLAYBOOK

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today's message.

- 2 Corinthians 10:5
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- John 16:13

#### PRACTICE / FILM STUDY

- Spend some time reflecting upon and examining your walk with the Lord. Honestly assess the degree to which you permit the Holy Spirit to govern and guide your daily life. Are you content with your assessment? Why or why not? What needs to change if anything?
- Are you willing to give the Holy Spirit more access to govern your daily life? Why or why not? Is there something you're unwilling to hand over? If so, what is it?
- What are some practical steps you can take each day to avoid or resist temptation?