

### Tempted As We Are (Part III)

#### A Destructive Fall

Luke 4:9-13

Every temptation we face finds its root in one of the three temptations Jesus faced, for it is written that Jesus was *'tempted ...as we are'* (Hebrews 4:15). In the first temptation of turning stones into bread, we see Satan tempting Jesus to use His power and abilities for *self-gratification*. In the second temptation, we see Satan tempting Jesus to obtain short-term pleasure without regard to His eternal purpose. In this third and final temptation we see Satan tempting Jesus with *presumption*; the belief that *"because God's grace covers all my sins, I am going to do what I'm about to do, or I will continue doing what I'm doing!"*

#### I. Presumption is often defended with Scripture and logic.

"So, you have entrusted your life to God, have you? That's good. I can see that you really are a man of faith. I know that you have purposed to live by faith. I can also see that you have a deep respect for God's Word. You trust in God and His Word. Let me call your attention to a promise from God." *"For He will give His angels to protect you in all you do. They will lift you up in their hands, so you will not slip and fall on a stone"* (Psalm 91:11-12). This is God's promise quoted correctly by Satan.

**(A). Grace is built on all the wonderful promises of God.** "He will..." "You will not..." etc...

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

**(B). Grace is true because it depends on the power of God.**

"For whom God foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son ...and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (Romans 8:28-30).

(1). Notice the subject of this verse is God - God is not 'waiting to see,' He is at work.

(2). Notice the verbs in this verse are all past tense - God is outside of time in purpose.

#### II. Presumption is dangerous because *living it out* is evidence of the absence of grace.

"Because of grace, I am going to do what I'm about to do, or I will continue doing what I am doing!"

**(A). The temptation to presumption is almost always a battle of the mind.**

There is a change of venue in this temptation; from the wilderness to the Temple's high place.

Some say Jesus was actually transported there, but I see Him there in His mind and imagination.

**(B). The temptation to presumption itself is not sin.**

All of us have wrestled with the concept of 'losing our salvation,' and most of us have settled it.

Because of our faith in God's good promises in Christ, it is a common temptation to presume.

**(C). Living a life of presumptuous sin is evidence that you've never been graced.**

*"No one in Christ keeps on sinning"* (1 Jn. 3:6); that is active, continual, willful, presumptuous sin.

#### III. Presumption is defeated by an understanding of one's calling and purpose.

David often prayed to God, *"(Lord) Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins"* (Psalm 19:13).

How did Jesus resist? He quoted Deuteronomy 6:16: *"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."*

The person putting God to 'the test' would be Jesus by testing God's gracious promises to Him.

(A) **(Lord)** keep thy servant from presumptuous sin.

"Conviction of sin is one of the most uncommon things that ever happens to a person" Chambers.

(B). (Lord) keep **thy servant** from presumptuous sin.

I'll never know what it means to be free from presumptuous sin till I see myself **a servant to Christ**.

(C). (Lord) keep thy servant from **presumptuous sin**.

Where are you presumptuous this morning? Will you call it out? Will you ask God to be free?