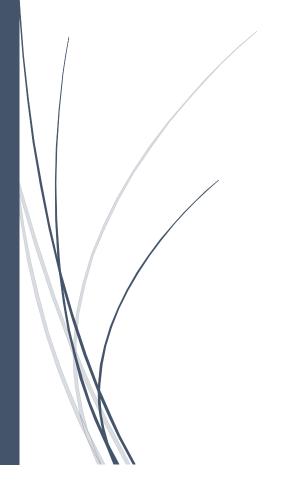
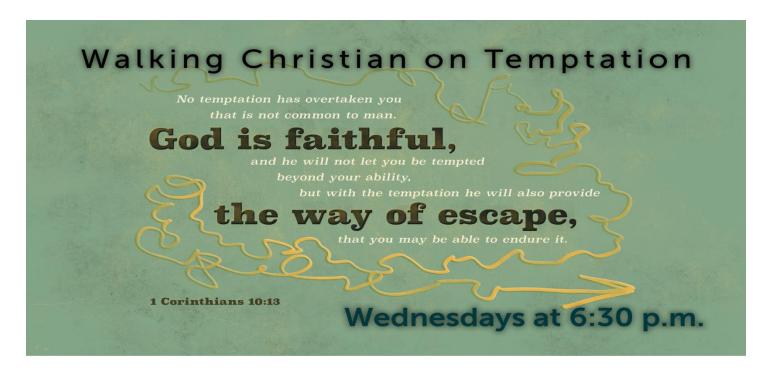
Walking Christian

Temptation

- I. Definitions
- II. Characteristics
- III. Causes
- IV. Steps to Solution



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Temptation

Promise of Pleasure—Lured by a Lie

by June Hunt

facilitated by Barry G. Johnson, Sr.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

(Proverbs 14:12)

I. DEFINITIONS

A. What Is Temptation?

The most common meaning of the word <i>temptation</i> is "an	to do wrong."
 The word <i>entice</i> comes from an old Greek hunting and fishing term <i>delect</i> ." 	azo, which means
 No bait will tempt everyone, but everyone is tempted by some type of badepends on the desires within your 	ait. What will tempt you
"Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away an	nd enticed." (<u>James 1:14</u>)
The Old Testament Hebrew word <i>nasah</i> means "an attempt to prove thesomething."	of

	_	Nasah is most often translated in "	the Bible as		
	_	God permits us to beweaknesses.		in order to reveal ou	ur strengths and our
Вів	LICAL EX	KAMPLE:			
		"Some time later God tested Ab Then God said, 'Take your son, yo Moriah. Sac	our only son, Isaac, who rifice him there as a bui	m you love, and go to the	•
	• Th	ne New Testament Greek word peirc	(<u>Genesis 22:1–2</u>) asmos means "a tempta	tion to sin" or	
	" -	This same Greek word is also tran			." "
	_	When you are tempted, you are in your commitment.	n a trying situation that	reveals your	and tests
	_	When you are tested by temptation	on, you are being		·
		"In this you greatly rejoice, though trials. These have come so that yo refined by fire—may be proved ge revealed." (1 Peter 1:6–7)	ur faith—of greater wo	rth than gold, which peris	hes even though
		Temptati	ion was experienced by	Jesus.	
		Therefore, He is fu	lly able to help you in y	our temptation.	
		"Because he himself suffered when	he was tempted, he is tempted."	able to help those who are	e being
			(<u>Hebrews 2:18</u>)		
В.	Wha	t Are Some Twisted Truths a	about Temptation	?	
	Twist	ED TRUTH #1:			
	"٦	emptation is sinful."			
	TRUTH	:			
			Jesus was tempted ir	n every way, yet He did no	ot sin.
		For we do not have a high priest who as been tempted in every way, just a			it we have one who
	Twist	ED TRUTH #2:			

 $Hunt, J. \ (2008). \ \textit{Biblical Counseling Keys on Temptation: Promise of Pleasure} - Lured \ \textit{by a Lie}. \ Dallas, TX: \ Hope For The Heart.$ www.brookfieldcoc.com www.barrygjohnsonsr.com Page 2 of 22

"God is tempting me!"

TRUTH:	
, but it is allowed by God.	
"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone." (<u>James 1:13</u>)	?
TWISTED TRUTH #3:	
"The devil made me do it!"	
Truth:	
Temptation is Satan's attempt to lure you into sin, but he can be	
"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (<u>James 4:7</u>)	
TWISTED TRUTH #4:	
"Somebody else made me do it."	
Truth:	
No one can make you kill, steal, lie, cheat or commit any immoral act. You have ato whether you give in to temptation or not.	_ a
"My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them." (Proverbs 1:10).	
TWISTED TRUTH #5:	
"She is so saintly, she is above temptation."	
Truth:	
Everyone is tempted, just in different areas. In fact, the mature Christian is often subject to temptation.	
"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12)	
TWISTED TRUTH #6:	
"A thought can't be sinful."	
Truth:	
An initial impure thought is not sinful, though it is a temptation. However, continuing with an unholy thought can make you to sin.	
"Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." (Acts 8:22–23)	
TWISTED TRUTH #7:	
"Just pull yourself up by your bootstraps."	

TRUTH:

	your weaknesses and yielding to Christ's power within you.
	"He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Corinthians 12:5)
Twi	STED TRUTH #8:
	"God is angry at me when I'm tempted."
TRU	тн:
	God does not disapprove of you because you are tempted. He can use the temptation as a tool to your character.
	"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2–4)
Twi	STED TRUTH #9:
	"What's the use? I've already blown it!"
TRU	тн:
	Failure is overcome by a change of: putting the past behind you and focusing on God's goal for you— In Philippians 3:13–14, Paul shared how he appropriated this truth in his own life.
	"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13–14)
Twi	STED TRUTH #10:
	"It's beyond my ability to control."
Tru	тн:
	Temptation may be beyond your control, but it is not beyond control.
	"For the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared." (Proverbs 3:26)
Но	w Do You Track Temptation?
•	Facing Temptation
	— <i>Temptation</i> is experienced by
	— <i>Temptation</i> occurs often in an area where you have been ensnared.
	— <i>Temptation</i> begins in your
	— Temptation takes advantage of your and

C.

_	 Temptation appears to meet a need but does so illegitimately in the wrong way or at the wrong time.
	"In the paths of the wicked lie thorns and snares, but he who guards his soul stays far from them." (Proverbs 22:5)
F	alling into Temptation
_	- <i>Temptation</i> strikes when your is "off guard."
_	- <i>Temptation</i> is entered into by allowing your to dwell on the tempting thoughts
_	- <i>Temptation</i> uses to numb your conscience.
_	- <i>Temptation</i> becomes relentless and
_	Temptation provides highly unusual to enter into sin.
	"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Matthew 26:41)

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

David and Bathsheba

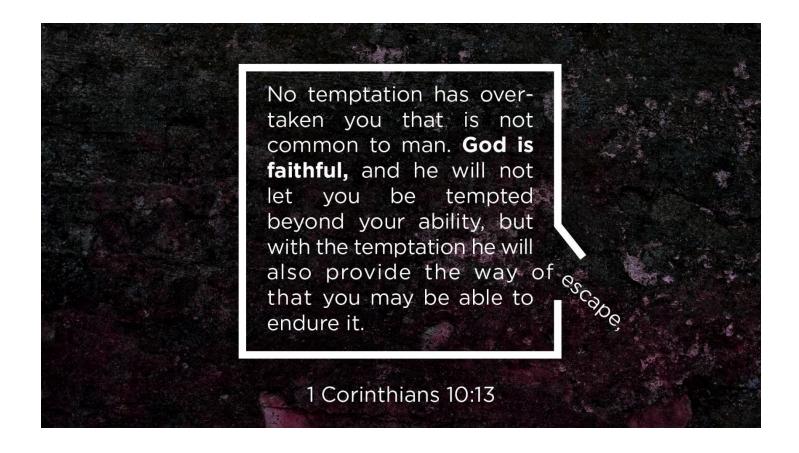
2 Samuel 11:1-13

Sin will make you stray further than you thought you'd stray,

Sin will make you stay longer than you thought you'd stay,

Sin will make you pay much more than you thought you'd pay.





II. CHARACTERISTICS

A. The Taste of Temptation

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

(Genesis 3:6)

TEMPTATION IS ...

•	It appeals to your hopes and desires.
•	It promises you immense pleasure.
•	It evades the truth with excuses.
•	It ensnares your mind and emotions.
•	It multiplies your appetite for more.

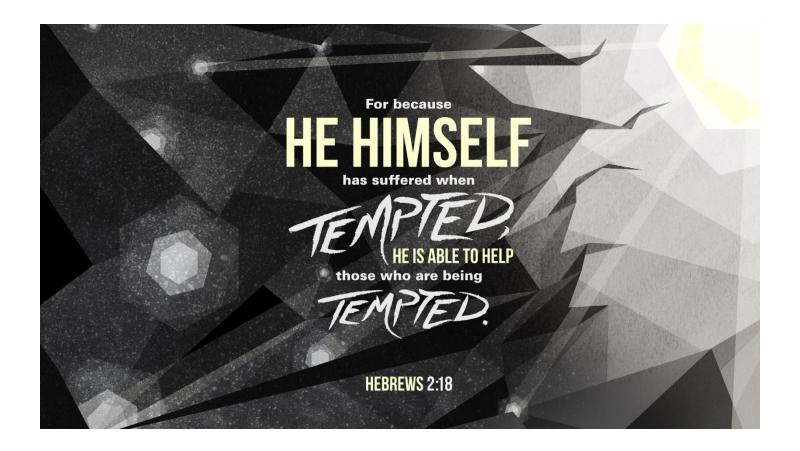
	• It fails to produce what was promised.
	• It restricts your relationship with God.
	"They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him."
	(<u>2 Peter 2:19</u>)
В.	Trapped by Temptation
	"The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires."
	(<u>Proverbs 11:6</u>)
	THE TEMPTATION TRAP
	Are youthe temptation?
	Are youabout your actions?
	Are youwith hidden guilt?
	Are youfrom other interests?
	Are youeventual exposure?

"My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare."

• Are you ______of your salvation?

(Psalm 25:15)





III. CAUSES

A. Causes of Defeat

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

(1 Peter 5:8)

SATAN'S AVENUES OF APPEAL

"You were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

(*Ephesians 2:1–3*)

EVE'S TEMPTATION

Genesis 3:1-6

•	Satan enticed Eve to disobey God and act of His will.
•	Satan tempted Eve to act on her physical to taste what is good.
•	Satan tempted Eve through her natural desire to have what is to the eye.
•	Satan tempted Eve by appealing to her need for and her and her desire to "be like God."
	JESUS' TEMPTATION
	Matthew 4:1–10
•	Satan enticed Jesus to act for Himself, independently of His
•	Satan tempted Jesus to meet His own needs turn the stones into bread.
•	Satan tempted Jesus by displaying something unusually "showed him all the kingdoms of the world."
•	Satan tempted Jesus by seeking to get Him to prove His own "if you are the Son of God."
	YOUR TEMPTATION
	<u>1 John 2:16</u>
•	Satan entices me to act of God and attempt to meet my own needs.
•	Satan tempts me to follow my desires "lust of the flesh (KJV)."
•	Satan tempts me to go after what is visually "lust of the eyes (KJV)."
•	Satan tempts me through my desire for personal "pride of life (KJV)."
	"Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

(<u>1 Peter 5:9</u>)

B. Root Cause

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u	w	к		N		п	-1	11	 -

"This is so tempting that right now I want it more than anything else. Although I know it's wrong, I feel that I need it."

RIGHT BELIEF:		

"Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall." (Psalm 55:22)





IV. STEPS TO SOLUTION

A. Key Verse to Memorize

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

B. Key Passage to Read and Reread

Romans chapter **6**

SEE YOURSELF DEAD TO SINFUL DESIRES

•	Because you are a believer, you are	to the bondage of sin.	v. <u>2</u>
•	Because you are "as dead and buried and see your new po	into Christ," you picture your old pattern of sin wer over sin.	v. <u>3</u>
•	Because you are "	with Christ," your old way of life is buried.	v. <u>4</u>

•	Because you are "	_ with Christ," you have resurrection power over	v. <u>4</u>
	sin.		
•	Because you are "power of sin's desire.	_ with Christ in His death," you are dead to the	v. <u>5</u>
•	Because you are "united with Christ in His supernatural power over sin.	," you have	v. <u>5</u>
•	Because your sin nature was "sin is crucified.	with Christ," your natural bent to	v. <u>6</u>
•	Because all who haveto sin.	are free from sin, you are no longer a slave	v. <u>7</u>
•	Because you "died with Christ," you died to	o sin's	v. <u>8</u>
•	Because you know that death has no mast the of death.	ery over Christ, you are not to be mastered by	v. <u>9</u>
•	Because you know that Christ	for God , you are to live for God.	v. <u>10</u>
•	Because you count yourself "dead to sin," your old way of life.	you deem yourselfto	v. <u>11</u>
•	Because you have been "brought from dea		v. <u>13</u>

C. The Freedom Formula

FORMULA FOR SELF-CONTROL

A New Purpose + A New Priority + A New Plan = Transformed Life Choose to ______ the character of Christ. "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son." (Romans 8:29) Choose to ______ your old habit for a new habit. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2) Choose to on Christ's strength, not your own strength. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13) Choose to _____ God's Gift of self-control. "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1 Peter 1:13) **ILLUSTRATIONS: HOW TO USE THE FORMULA Hooked on Hunger** A New Purpose: A New Priority: A New Plan: I will rely on Christ's strength, not mine ...

	-
	-
	_
	"Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (<u>1 Corinthians 10:31</u>)
Pu	illed by Pornography
•	A New Purpose:
•	A New Priority:
•	A New Plan:
	I will rely on Christ's strength, not mine
	-
	_
	 to develop a strategy for Internet use by either getting rid of my computer, using it only under the password supervision of my wife or roommate or by installing accountability software on my computer (for example, www.covenanteyes.com)
	-
). Re	esisting Temptation
	"In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."
	(Hebrews 12:4)
_	
Re	ecognize the source.
•	that Satan is the author of tempting thoughts.
•	Satan's purpose is to destroy your character.
•	to be snared by Satan.

•	that Satan is a defeated foe.
	"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)
Ex	spect to win the war.
•	Expect to give your total
•	Expect many
•	Expect to win even if you some minor battles.
•	Expect to win the war for you.
	"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)
Se	earch your heart.
•	Do you know that temptation is your unmet need?
•	Do you know the unmet needs to which you are (the need for love, for significance and for security)?
•	Do you know that seeking to meet the need is sin?
•	<i>Do you know</i> whether you want to be delivered from this sin?
•	Do you know that you are to overcome sin in your own strength?
•	Do you know that God will your need in His time?
	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." (1 Peter 5:6)
lm	nagine the consequences.
•	Think about the loss of your
•	<i>Think</i> about the and you would experience.
•	Think about the loss of and a clear conscience.
•	Think about the you may cause others.
•	<i>Think</i> about the tragic suffered by those who yielded to temptation in Scripture:
	 Lot's wife was turned to salt. (Read <u>Genesis 19:1–29</u>.)
	 Samson lost his sight and strength. (Read Judges chapter <u>16</u>.)
	 David grieved over his divided family. (Read <u>2 Samuel 12:9–12</u>.)
	"Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin." (Psalm 38:3)

Sense God's presence.

God is with you every	·
God knows your	and
God knows your ever	у
God knows how to he	elp you your thoughts.
-	on is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of t give account." (<u>Hebrews 4:13</u>)
ansform your thoughts	s with truth.
	your temptation as a test of loyalty.
	the spiritual truth that sin has no power over you.
	regular time praying for Christ's strength.
	God's will and way through reading His Word.
	specific Scriptures to memorize that apply to your area of temptation.
temptation to be	
"When words are	many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise." (Proverbs 10:19)
 temptation to be 	
•	nwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others neir needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Ephesians 4:29)
temptation to be	
"Do not swerve to	the right or the left; keep your foot from evil." (Proverbs 4:27)
temptation to be	
	on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's touches her will go unpunished." (Proverbs 6:28–29)
temptation to be	
"A gossip betrays	a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret." (Proverbs 11:13)
temptation to be	
"I made a covena	nt with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl." (<u>Job 31:1</u>)
temptation to be	
"Do not judge, or	you too will be judged." (<u>Matthew 7:1</u>)
 temptation to be 	
"What causes figh you?" (<u>James 4: 1</u>	nts and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within

	"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (<u>James 1:19–20</u>)					
	"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."					
	(<u>2 Corinthians 10:4–5</u>)					
E.	The Road Back Home					
	"So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."					
	(<u>Luke 15:20</u>)					
	THE ROAD BACK HOME					
	Isaiah chapter <u>30</u>					
	Isaiah chapter 30 pictures God's relationship with His Hebrew children. They had been rebellious, deceitful and disobedient. "These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction" (Isaiah 30:9). In spite of their rebellion, God reveals His compassion and His provision for their way back home. (Read Isaiah 30:15–26.) • R					
	"This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.'" (Isaiah 30:15)					
	Repentance involves grief over your sin—not just for the consequences.					
	Repentance also requires total before God, acknowledging your and turning from temptation.					
	• R					
	"The LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" (<u>Isaiah 30:18</u>)					
	Accept God's toward you as He offers His forgiveness.					
	Rest in His					
	Don't run ahead of the Lord just to know His will.					
	• R					

— temptation to be ______

		answer you. Although you have as you allow His grace to	your
heart.	- -		
R			
"Whether you turn to walk in it.' " (<u>Isaiah 3</u>		ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,	'This is the way,
		or your life. As you pray and spend time i	
will hear His voice te accepting		. This way includes making	and
R			
•	your idols overlaid with silver al cloth and say to them, 'Awa	and your images covered with gold; you v	will throw them
away iike a menserae	ar crotti ana say to them, niva	y with you! (<u>isulah 30.22</u>)	
As you yield yourself	f to God's power, sin's power v	will lose its hold on you. You will no longe to that which has controlled y	
As you yield yourself your desire to sin no	f to God's power, sin's power will you be in	will lose its hold on you. You will no longe	
As you yield yourself your desire to sin not and emotions. R	f to God's power, sin's power or will you be in ou rain for the seed you sow in that day your cattle will graze and mash, spread out with fork lofty hill. The moon will shine in full days, when the LORD bind	will lose its hold on you. You will no longe	your mind, will on the land will b os that work the on every high on times brighter

Sin is a declaration of independence from God. But when we choose sin, we find ourselves in slavery to sin. We abolish slavery when we believe God's Word that the Christian is "dead to sin"—sin's power. Abolish slavery with a declaration of independence from sin and experience your freedom in Christ.

—June Hunt



TURN FROM TEMPTATION

WHEN TEMPTED TO ...

Blame God

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone." (<u>James 1:13</u>)

• Complain

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." (Philippians 2:14–15)

Doubt God

"What is impossible with men is possible with God." (Luke 18:27)

• Give Up

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)

• Lie

"Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment." (Proverbs 12:19)

Lust

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell." (Matthew 5:27–30)

Quarrel

"Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen." (2 Timothy 2:14)

Worry

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field

grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:25–34)

Angry

"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (<u>James 1:19–20</u>)

Discouraged

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8–9)

Disobedient

"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." (<u>1 John 5:3</u>)

Impatient

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)

• Self-sufficient

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (<u>John 15:5</u>)

Unforgiving

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)

Unsubmissive

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)

Vengeful

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:17–21)

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

(Psalm 119:11)

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