

Don't Tempt Satan



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Luke 22:31–32 (KJV) — 31 . . . Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Luke 22:33 (KJV) — 33 . . . Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both
into prison, and to death.

His self-confidence proved his ruin.

He tempted Satan to tempt him,
and he fell under the arts of the wily
foe. When Christ needed him most,
he stood on the side of the enemy,
and openly denied his Lord... (*This
Day with God*, p. 259.3)



2 Corinthians 3:5 (KJV) — 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God

1 Corinthians 10:12 (KJV) — 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

The apostle adjured the Corinthians, “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” Should they become boastful and self-confident, neglecting to watch and pray, they would fall into grievous sin, calling down upon themselves the wrath of God. Yet

Paul would not have them yield to despondency or discouragement. He gave them the assurance: “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 316.1)

Christ will not save from wounds the one who places himself unbidden on the enemy's ground. He lets the self-sufficient one, who acts as if he knew more than his Lord, go on in his supposed strength. Then comes suffering and a crippled life, or perhaps defeat and death. (*This Day with God*, p. 259.4)

In the warfare, the enemy takes advantage of the weakest points in the defence of those he is attacking. Here he makes his fiercest assaults. The Christian should have no weak points in his defence. He should be barricaded by the support that the Scriptures give to the one who is doing God's will. The tempted soul will bear away the victory, if he follows the example of Him who met the tempter with the word, "It is written." He can stand securely in the protection of a "Thus saith the Lord." ... (*This Day with God*, p. 259.5)

Mark 4:34 (KJV) — 34 But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Luke 18:9–10 (KJV) — 9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

Luke 18:11–12 (KJV) — 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess

Luke 18:13–14 (KJV) — 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.



Why, you sometimes see people with clothing upon them that is in no sense becoming to them, but is utterly incongruous. They may have on a hat or a dress of a color that makes them look as if they were recovering from a fit of the jaundice. But that question is not thought of. All that they think is that such is the fashion now. (A. T. Jones, *General Conference Bulletin*, February 15, 1895, page 165.3)



I UNDERSTAND there are some that think I did not say enough about dress last night. I think perhaps that is so; because it is altogether likely that those who think I did not say enough about dress, would be glad if I had talked about those who dress neatly, and even nicely, while they themselves think they are all right. (A. T. Jones, *General Conference Bulletin*, February 15, 1895, page 171.1)

There are people who, when they see a person dressed neatly and well, take it at once as an evidence of pride. But it is just as much an evidence of pride for a person to be proud of his slovenliness, as it is for another person to be proud of his flashiness. I have seen people who were proud of their slovenliness, I have seen people who were proud of their lack of pride. They were thanking God they were not proud. But they were. (A. T. Jones, *General Conference Bulletin*, February 15, 1895, page 171.2)

Perhaps for that reason I did not say enough about dress before; and therefore I would add this, that those who are proud of their lack of pride, and so, in this pride think they are all right, when they might and ought to dress better or more neatly than they do, would do well to correct themselves, and come up to a better standard. (A. T. Jones, *General Conference Bulletin*, February 15, 1895, page 171.3)

Luke 12:16–18 (KJV) — 16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19–20 (KJV) — 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV) — 5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Hebrews 2:3 (KJV) — 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

John 15:4–5 (KJV) — 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Philippians 4:13 (KJV) — 13 I can do all things through Christ
which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:19 (KJV) — 19 But my God shall supply all your
need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 12:8–10 (KJV) — 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

**When we think we are strong,
we are really weak.**

Luke 21:34–36 (KJV) — 34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Self-confidence led him to the belief that he was saved, and step after step was taken in the downward path, until he could deny his Master. Never can we safely put confidence in self or feel, this side of heaven, that we are secure against temptation. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 155.1)

It was through self-sufficiency that Peter fell; and it was through repentance and humiliation that his feet were again established. In the record of his experience every repenting sinner may find encouragement. Though Peter had grievously sinned, he was not forsaken. The words of Christ were written upon his soul, “I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.” Luke 22:32 (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 155.4a)

In his bitter agony of remorse, this prayer, and the memory of Christ's look of love and pity, gave him hope. Christ after His resurrection remembered Peter, and gave the angel the message for the women, "Go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him." Mark 16:7. Peter's repentance was accepted by the sin-pardoning Saviour. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 155.4b)

And the same compassion that reached out to rescue Peter is extended to every soul who has fallen under temptation. It is Satan's special device to lead man into sin, and then leave him, helpless and trembling, fearing to seek for pardon. But why should we fear, when God has said, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me?" Isaiah 27:5. Every provision has been made for our infirmities, every encouragement offered us to come to Christ. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 156.1)

Galatians 1:4 (KJV) — 4 Who gave himself (on the old rugged cross) for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

The End