

Security When You're Spiritually Tempted

As God's children, we are sometimes insecure. We grow and change. Like Adam and Eve, we crave God's glory. Like them, we are tempted to fill this desire in other ways.

Here's what we can learn from their story: God has only one way for us to fill our desire for him. That's knowing him. This relationship with him matters more than any other desire that we feel. If we operate outside of his love, we end up outside of our territory.

The key to beating temptation is to know that your deepest desire is to experience God's love. When you notice that you're being tempted toward wrongness, you can remind yourself that God's love is better than whatever you're craving.

Then, you have to actually experience that love. If not, you'll just follow your craving. (Or, you'll remind yourself that following your craving is dangerous, and you'll live without God's love, always fighting that unfulfilled craving.)

How do you get God's love when you're craving something else?

You ask him for his love. Then, you feel it. (Remember when he saved you?)

It doesn't have to feel a certain way. Just let it sink in. Other cravings fade away.

Try this yourself. Think about something you really crave. Now, realize that God knows you crave it. He's either going to take away the craving or fill it his way. Why? Because he loves you! In this moment, you are with him and that other desire doesn't matter.

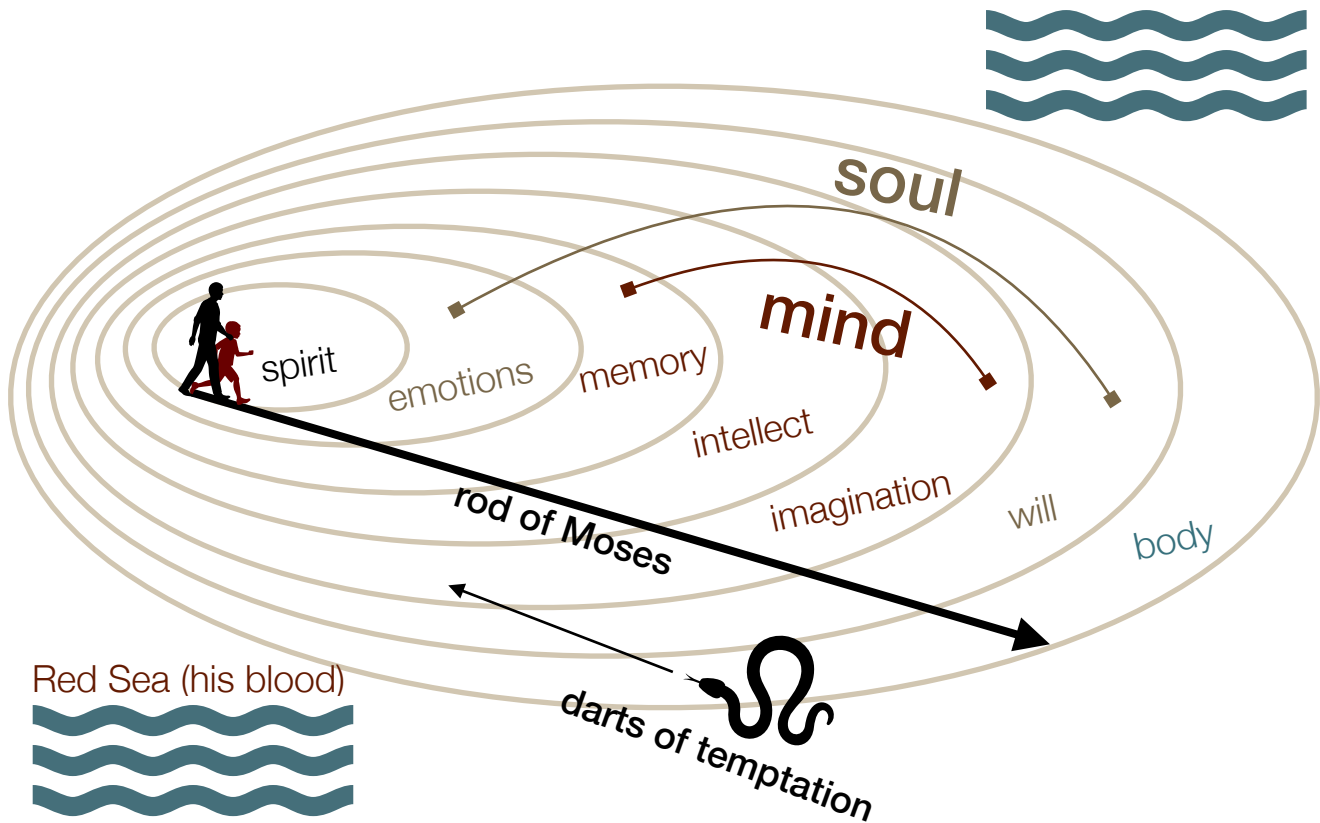
The next two pages show you how to handle these cravings when they keep coming back. The key is to get used to asking God for his love and then taking it.

The diagram on the next page shows how the darts of temptation flow from the bodily, physical realm that we can see, hear, touch, smell and taste. Our **will** allows our **mind** to **imagine** fulfilling that temptation. Then, we **remember** what it feels like **emotionally**. This leads to **spiritual** bondage (fulfilling the craving, or resisting it with self-rightness).

Or, it can trigger us to ask God for **spiritual** freedom.



The Security Diagram



(Note: The “soul” bracket includes emotions, mind and will. “Mind” is a bracket, too.)

Description: Like the Hebrew slaves crossed the Red Sea to freedom, we were saved by the “washing of regeneration” in Christ’s blood. Where the Lord lives in our spirit, there is liberty to control our own body (flesh) and soul (emotions, mind and will). God’s love flows the opposite direction of Satan’s temptation in our lives.

Biblical References: the example of the Hebrew slaves for us- 1 Co 10:1-15

- washing of regeneration- Tit 3:5
- spiritual liberty- 2 Cor 3:17
- spirit, soul & body- 1 Thes 5:23
- rod & parting of the sea- Ex 14:16, 21
- snake turns into a rod- Ex 4:3-4
- darts of Satan- Eph 6:16



The Security Strategy: Breaking the Bondage

We can use The Security Strategy to break through the devil's influence when a bad **feeling, thought** or **choice** comes along to tempt us. First, we notice that this desire is threatening to steal our freedom. Instead of giving in, we can open our heart to Christ who is living in us. His spiritual energy of love will now begin flowing from our spirit through our soul and into our physical actions. This is how we can make the mature choice when a mistake threatens our worship. (See an overview in the bolds below.)

1. The moment you were saved, the spirit of Jesus moved into your spirit and lives there because his Ghost was “shed on [you] abundantly” (once and for all, Tit 3:6).
2. Oh no! Your soul **is influenced (tempted)** with either [1] a sin, or [2] a desire to do the right thing in order to be better than other people (*I'm-rightness*).
3. Now, **you notice** that you are being influenced in your feelings, mind and will to sin.
4. Your intellect (the part of you that controls your thoughts) **asks Jesus Christ** to use his rod (his love for you) to split the situation and make a way for you to escape it.
5. Instantly, you are spiritually energized to **move away** from the temptation (enemy).
6. (See “The Security Diagram” on page 10.) Power flows from your **spirit** into your **emotions**. Your **memory** recognizes this feeling of power and prompts your **intellect** to **imagine** yourself using it. Your **will** connects this power to your **body**. You're now free to do the right thing for the right reason.
7. **You realize** that you just defeated an overwhelming temptation with God's power! You admire this new freedom. You tell God he's amazing. You ask him to help you out of this temptation again, whenever it happens next.



The 30 Battlegrounds

10 Areas of Weak Character:

Selfishness: Not giving your time, money and talents as God leads you to. (Eph 4:28)

Distraction: Not using a plan for wise time and money management. (Prov 12:24)

Disrespect: Not honoring others, whether they're respectful or not. (1 Cor 13:4-5)

Complaining: Not speaking positively, even when the atmosphere is negative.
(Php 2:14)

Provocation: Taunting or avoiding others instead of resolving conflict responsibly.
(Prov 18:6)

Hurtfulness: Being hurtful with your words or actions instead of serving others. (This includes speaking about yourself with put-downs, neglect of your physical or spiritual nutrition, addictive behavior, talking down to your family and neglecting your children's nutrition.) (Psa 37:8)

Lying: Not giving others an accurate picture of the truth. (Prov 12:22)

Rebellion: Choosing not to do the right thing at the right time. (Col 3:25)

Foolishness: Letting yourself or others stumble when it would be wise to intervene.
(Prov 1:7)

Messiness: Not taking good care of your personal space. (2 Cor 13:11)

Other:



10 Areas of Religious Hypocrisy:

Pride: Looking down on a person or group of people, even if only in your thoughts. (2 Tim 3:2-4)

Hypocrisy: Pointing out someone else's weakness while ignoring the same weakness in yourself. (Luk 6:42)

Neglect: Wanting to do the right thing, but neglecting to do it. (This includes procrastination and self-care, including health care.) (Jam 4:17)

Prayerlessness: Avoiding your mental dialog with God, especially when you notice that your thoughts are quenching his voice because you're anxious (or angry) and not thankful. (1 Thes 5:17-19)

Control: Trying to control or manipulate people (or God) for your benefit, but not theirs. (For example: "We're not visiting your mother again until you do more work around here.") (Rom 16:18)

Error: Refusing to trust the Scriptural, Holy-Spirit-revealed truth as the basis for my thoughts, words and actions. (1 Tim 3:16-17)

People-Pleasing: Making a wrong decision or taking the wrong side of an argument, in order to avoid offending an individual or social group. (Mat 23:28)

Guilt-Tripping: Withholding unconditional love or trying to motivate others through guilt or obligation. (For example: "Sally, be a good girl now. Put your toys away." She should be motivated to do good work out of feeling loved and wanting to return that love, not to "be good.") (Mat 23:4)

Heaviness: Having a negative outlook even though God wants me to rejoice and give him thanks in everything. (For example, "Really? Another mess for me to clean up?") (1 Thes 5:18)

False Teaching: Using a leadership platform of any kind (including parenting) to spread or promote wrong teaching. (For example, allowing your child to believe in Santa Claus.) (Rom 16:17)



10 Areas of Moral Compromise: (Based on the Ten Commandments)

False Religion: Being involved in false religions, including occultism (astrology, fortune telling, witchcraft, wizardry, communicating with spirits or ghosts, channeling, etc.), New Age (yoga, karma, hypnotism, dreamcatchers, nature worship, etc.), atheism (evolution, relativism, existential philosophy, agnosticism, etc.), Freemasonry, Mormonism, Scientology, Jehovah's Witnesses, paganism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc. This includes watching videos, listening to music or reading materials that present these things as morally neutral or favorable (except for research purposes).

(2 Cor 11:14-15)

Idolatry: Treating visible symbols as holy or lucky (saints, statues, crucifixes, rabbit's foot, fortune cookies, Buddhas, etc.). (Gal 5:20)

Profanity: Thinking or speaking the words "God, OMG, Lord, Word, holy, Jesus or Christ" without an attitude of reverence. Misusing the words, "damn" and "hell," or appearing to misuse those words by saying "darn" or "heck." (Ex 20:7, 1 Thes 5:22)

Conditional Christianity: Trying to earn or keep salvation from hell by doing something besides receiving and resting in what Jesus has done for you. (Col 2:16-17 addresses sabbath keeping.) (Heb 4:3/Eph 2:8-9, Col 2:16-17)

Dishonor of Parents: Not honoring the companionship, obligations and requests of parents of any age, whether or not the Holy Spirit wants you to comply with them. (Ex 20:12)

Violence: Letting yourself think about wanting to harm yourself or others. This includes swearing (especially with forms of the "f" word), joking about killing or hurting someone, and viewing violence for personal pleasure (whether live or on a screen). This also includes using forms of birth control which carry a risk of abortion. (Some forms, like the diaphragm, are safe for fertilized eggs.) Sometimes harm is not wrong when it is done in justice to create peace. This includes spanking your children (with a calm, loving attitude), and police or military activity. (Mt 5:21-22)

Unfaithfulness: Allowing yourself to think thoughts of being romantically attracted to (or of romantically attracting) anyone with whom you are not ready to pursue marriage



(or are married to). Allowing misplaced romantic attitudes or behaviors (including fornication and LGBTQ agenda) into your home through television. Dressing immodestly or allowing your children to dress immodestly. (Mt 5:27-28)

Stealing: Taking something without permission, except when you know the owner would normally allow you to borrow it. This includes digital information. (Eph 4:28)

Gossip: Allowing people to think badly of someone based on your words or actions (or lack of words or actions. Check with the Holy Spirit to know if it’s right to speak or to be silent.) (Eph 4:29)

Jealousy: Wishing you had someone else’s belongings (except when you are thinking about purchasing one for yourself), or their physical appearance or talents. (Rom 13:9)

Other:

(Additional battlegrounds can be found on the “Put-On” chart. [Click here](#) and then scroll down to view the chart.)

