

# The Invisible War

Pastor Rick Warren

## Session One

### Understanding the Sources and Purposes of Temptation

#### Two Kinds of Testing:

- **Trial:** A situation designed by God in order to \_\_\_\_\_ to him.
- **Temptation:** A situation designed by Satan in order to \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4 NIV)*

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

#### General Facts about Temptation:

- It is not a \_\_\_\_\_ to be tempted.

*Jesus was in all points tempted like as we are, yet he sinned not. (Hebrews 4:15)*

*Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16 NKJV)*

- I will never \_\_\_\_\_ temptation.

*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 [of escape] so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV)*

- Temptation will \_\_\_\_\_.
- Temptations are \_\_\_\_\_ to everybody.
- God \_\_\_\_\_ every temptation we go through.
- God will \_\_\_\_\_ if I trust him.

### The Three Sources of Temptation:

- My own \_\_\_\_\_
- The \_\_\_\_\_
- The \_\_\_\_\_

*When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup>but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:13-15 NIV)*

- Lust is an unrighteous way to fulfill a \_\_\_\_\_.

*For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:16-17 NIV/NKJV)*

- The devil’s purpose in temptation is to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Why God Allows Temptation:

- The necessity of \_\_\_\_\_

- Temptation shows us:

What we \_\_\_\_\_

Where we \_\_\_\_\_

Where we’re \_\_\_\_\_ in the future if we don’t change

- It allows a choice that is essential for character building. It’s an opportunity for growth.

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## Session Two The Process of Temptation

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
<b>The Process</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Satan's 3 Steps</b>	Satan _____ God's Word	Satan gives his _____ (John 8:44)	Satan offers an _____
<b>The Temptation of Adam Genesis 3</b>	"Did God say?" vs. 1	"You shall not die" vs. 4	"Be wise now!" vs. 5
<b>The Temptation of Jesus Matthew 4:6</b>	"If you are the Son of God . . ."	Misquoted verse out of context (See Psalm 91:11)	"Be worshiped now!"
<b>God's Truth</b>	"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Mark 13:31	"You may be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23	"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12
<b>Correct response</b>	"Yes, he has said..."  Affirm God's Word.	Quote scripture!	Wait for God's best

### Lessons from Matthew 4:

- Just because you are filled with the Spirit doesn't mean you won't be tempted.
- Times of spiritual high are followed by temptation. After every mountain top, there is a valley.
- Satan often tempts us when our resistance is low.
- We are tempted, not just in our areas of weakness, but also in our areas of strength.

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## Session Three The Three Kinds of Temptation

	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
<b>1 John 2:16</b>	Lust of the Flesh	Lust of the Eyes (Proverbs 27:20)	Pride of Life
	Temptation to _____	Temptation to _____	Temptation to _____
	Desire to _____	Desire to _____	Desire to _____
	P _____  Sex Appetite	P _____  Security Avarice	P _____  Success Ambition
<b>Temptation of Adam &amp; Eve Genesis 3:6</b>	<i>"The tree was good for _____"</i>	<i>"It was pleasant to the _____"</i>	<i>"You shall be as _____"</i>
<b>Temptation of Jesus Matthew 4</b>	<i>"Turn these stones Into bread" vs. 3</i>	<i>"All these things will I give you" vs. 9</i>	<i>"Jump off the pinnacle" vs. 6</i>
<b>The Fall of Satan Isaiah 14:12-16</b>	<i>"I will _____ to heaven" (to do) vs. 13</i>	<i>"I will _____ my throne" (to have) vs. 13</i>	<i>"I will _____ like the most high" (to be) vs. 14</i>
<b>Moses Hebrews 11:24-26</b>	The World's Pleasure vs. 25	The World's Treasure vs. 26	The World's Measure vs. 24

*For we are not ignorant of how Satan works. (2 Corinthians 2:11)*

*For everything that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life does not come from the Father, but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires will pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:16-17)*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

<sup>4</sup>"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

<sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Genesis 3:1-13 NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"  
(Matthew 4:1-10 NIV)

<sup>12</sup>How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! <sup>13</sup>You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." <sup>15</sup>But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. <sup>16</sup>Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate. (Isaiah 14:12-16 NIV)

<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. <sup>26</sup>He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. (Hebrews 11:24-26 NIV)

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## Session Four God's Antidotes to Temptation

	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
<b>1 John 2:16</b>	Lust of the Flesh	Lust of the Eyes (Proverbs 27:20)	Pride of Life
	Temptation to do  Desire to indulge	Temptation to have  Desire to increase	Temptation to be  Desire to impress
	Passion Sex/Appetite	Possession Security/Avarice	Position Success/Ambition
<b>Worldly Philosophy</b>	Hedonism	Materialism	Secular Humanism
<b>Cultural Expressions</b>	<i>"If it feels good, do it"</i>	<i>"Get all you can!"</i>	<i>"Look out for #1"</i>
<b>The Challenge to God</b>	Challenges the  _____ of God	Challenges the  _____ of God	Challenges the  _____ of God
<b>God's Antidotes 1 Corinthians 13:13</b>	_____ always gives	_____ stores up for Heaven	_____ depends on God
<b>Jesus' Answer Matthew 16:24</b>	_____ yourself	_____ me Keep eyes on Jesus instead of things	Take up your _____ No arrogance

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* (1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV)

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup>What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26 NIV)

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## Session Five

### The Steps to Overcoming Temptation (part one)

*“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” (Matthew 6:13 KJV)*

#### 1. Identify what makes me \_\_\_\_\_

*“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” Matthew 26:41 (NIV)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ am I most tempted?
- \_\_\_\_\_ am I most tempted?
- \_\_\_\_\_ is with me when I’m most tempted?
- \_\_\_\_\_ temporary benefit do I get if I give in?
- \_\_\_\_\_ do I feel right before I’m tempted?

#### 2. Plan to \_\_\_\_\_

*Plan carefully what you do . . . Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.” (Proverbs 4:26-27 TEV)*

#### 3. Guard my \_\_\_\_\_

*We are tempted by our own desires that drag us off and trap us. (James 1:14 CEV)*

*“For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.” (Mark 7:21-22 NLT)*

*Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do. (Proverbs 4:23 NLT)*

Physically exhausted	0 1 2 3 4	Energetic & in shape
Discouraged or pessimistic	0 1 2 3 4	Encouraged & hopeful
Bored & discontented	0 1 2 3 4	Challenged & contented
Spiritually dry or empty	0 1 2 3 4	Spiritually alive & growing
Alone or distant from others	0 1 2 3 4	Close to those you love
Insecure or unsure	0 1 2 3 4	Confident & secure
Wounded or deeply hurt	0 1 2 3 4	Loved & understood
Bitter or angry	0 1 2 3 4	Forgiven everyone
Sad	0 1 2 3 4	Happy
Like you’ve failed	0 1 2 3 4	Successful
TOTAL:		

*Do not give the devil a foothold. (Ephesians 4:27 NIV)*

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## Session Six

### The Steps to Overcoming Temptation (part two)

#### 4. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_

*“Call upon me in your day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”* (Psalm 50:15NIV)

*[Jesus] understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to ... our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and grace to help us when we need it.”* (Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT)

#### 5. Turn my \_\_\_\_\_ elsewhere

*Thinking about your commands will keep me from doing some foolish thing.* (Psalm 119:6 CEV)

*Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*  
(James 1:14-15 NIV)

#### The Predictable Pattern of Temptation

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil with good.* (Romans 12:21 GW)

#### 6. Get a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_

*Two are better than one, because together...if one falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls...there's no one to help him.* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 GN)

*Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you can be tempted to sin, too. By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.*  
(Galatians 6:1-2 NCV)

#### Three Benefits of Sharing Your Temptation with Others

- It's \_\_\_\_\_
- It's \_\_\_\_\_
- It's \_\_\_\_\_

*My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives...!* (James 5:19-20 MSG)



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## Session Seven

### How to Avoid Temptation

*“Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation.” (Matthew 26:41 MKJV)*

*Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV)*

*Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise. (Ephesians 5:15 NASB)*

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13 NASB)*

#### Practical Steps to Avoid Temptation

**1. Make sure your \_\_\_\_\_ have been dealt with.**

*<sup>18</sup>Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, <sup>19</sup>holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. (1 Timothy 1:18-19 NIV)*

**2. Make sure you are filled daily with the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16 NKJV)*

**3. Decide in advance to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**4. Put on \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:13-17 NIV)*

**5. Minimize the \_\_\_\_\_ and maximize the \_\_\_\_\_ of giving in.**

#### Six Consequences of Unconfessed Sin

**• Fellowship with God is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Restore to me the JOY of your salvation. (Psalm 51:12 NIV)*

*<sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. (1 John 1:6-10 NIV)*

• **My prayers will not be** \_\_\_\_\_.

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.* (Isaiah 59:2 NIV)

*If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.* (Proverbs 28:9 NIV)

*He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.* (Proverbs 28:13 NIV)

*Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done.* (Micah 3:4 NIV)

*If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.* (Psalm 66:18 NLT)

*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.* (1 Peter 3:7 NIV)

• **God** \_\_\_\_\_ **using me.**

*<sup>3</sup>Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. <sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.* (Psalm 24:3-5 NIV)

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.* (2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV)

• **God will** \_\_\_\_\_ **me.**

Punishment is retribution for the past. Discipline is correction for the future.

*Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.* (Revelation 3:19 NIV)

*<sup>7</sup>As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? <sup>8</sup>If God doesn't discipline you as He does all of His children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really His children at all. <sup>9</sup>Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?* (Hebrews 12:7-9 NLT)

• **God cannot** \_\_\_\_\_ **me.**

*The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.* (1 Corinthians 2:14 NIV)

• **I am vulnerable to Satan's** \_\_\_\_\_.

**6. Guard your** \_\_\_\_\_.

*So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the special blessings that will come to you at the return of Jesus Christ.* (1 Peter 1:13 NLT)