

A background image showing the Earth from space, with a bright sun in the upper right corner creating a lens flare effect. The Earth's blue atmosphere and white clouds are visible against the blackness of space.

A TIME FOR...

“Disarming Temptation”

Where Do we Experience Temptation?

1. **Gold** - finance greed?
2. **Glory** - pride and ego?
3. **Girls/Guys** - unhealthy attractions?
4. **Other** - anything pulling us from God?

The Journey of Temptation...

James 1:13-15 ESV

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is **tempted** when they are dragged away by **their own evil desire and enticed**. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has **conceived**, it **gives birth to sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, **gives birth to death**.

**“Be killing sin, or sin
will be killing you.”**

John Owen

Temptation Finds my Vulnerability

Matthew 4:3-7 NLT

³ During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴ But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶ and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”

Temptation Finds my Vulnerability

Matthew 4:8-11 NLT

⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” ¹⁰ “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’” ¹¹ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

How did Jesus Disarm the Devil?

1. He was filled with the Spirit.

Gal. 5:16_{ESV} ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

2. He knew the Bible.

Heb. 4:12_{ESV} ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword...

3. He took Authority.

Jam. 4:7-8a_{ESV} ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

How Can we Disarm Temptation?

1. Parameters and Position - Set boundaries.

Proverbs 4:14-15_{ESV} Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.

Q. What boundaries need to be changed?

Q. What do I need to do to move myself?

How Can we Disarm Temptation?

2. Partner - Find accountability.

Galatians 6:1 ESV Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Q. Who can you open up to?

How Can we Disarm Temptation?

3. Passage - Find God's way out.

1 Cor. 10:13_{ESV} No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Q. What routes 'forward' is God giving?

How Can we Disarm Temptation?

4. Ponder and Process - Think about consequences, recognise mistakes.

Luke 12:48 NIV - From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Lamentations 3:40 ESV - Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

Q. What lasting damage will this cause?

Q. How can I stop mistakes from reoccurring?

How Can we Disarm Temptation?

5. Persevere - Keep pressing forward.

Galatians 5:16-17 ESV - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Q. What life will I choose to feed?

How Can we Disarm Temptation?

6. Plan - God's plan for my life.

Romans 3:24-25 NLT - Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood...

Q. Have I found my new life in Christ?

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