



Looking Out for Number One

For Satan to accomplish his agenda in the lives of Christians he needs two things: The WORLD and the FLESH.

The World's System

1 John 2:15 (NLT) *Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.*

James 4:4 (NLT) **You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.**

Romans 12:2a (NLT) **Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.**

Why is the world's system so hostile to God?

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV) *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*
- It is interested in SELF, giving God no place and no honor.

The flesh which always wants to be built up, gratified and self-exalted. Add in some **sinful nature and you have "looking out for Number 1." We could just call it selfishness.**

1 John 2:16 (NIV) *For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*

- Lust of the Eyes
- Lust of the Flesh
- Pride of Life

How Temptation Works

Christians have been buying what Satan has been selling since the beginning. What did Satan do in the garden that he is still doing today?

- **Satan undermined God's Word.**
- Satan mixed enough truth with the lies so the lies were difficult to detect.

The Greatest Weapon against Temptation

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Ephesians 6:13-18 (NLT)

The Sword of the Spirit puts us in an offensive position rather than a defensive position. Matthew 4:1-11 (NLT)

- In order to get it out of our MOUTHS in times of trouble, we must first get it into our HEARTS and MINDS.

Our Merciful God

James 1:13-14 (NIV) **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.**

Romans 6:16-18 (NIV) **16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**

James 1:12 (NIV) *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

"One Christian who has been tempted is worth a 1000 who haven't."
—Martin Luther

Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Matthew 1
Tuesday: Matthew 2

Wednesday: Matthew 3
Thursday: Matthew 4

Friday: Matthew 5
Saturday: Matthew 6

Talk it Over:

1. What do worldly, flesh, and the devil all have in common?
2. Discuss 1 John 2:16.
3. What is the greatest weapon against temptation?
4. What difference does reading your Bible daily make for you?
5. How are you going to handle temptation differently in the future?