

Resisting Idolatry, Temptation and Deception

The Basic Pattern of Temptation

1 John 2:16	Genesis 3:1-5	Matthew 4:2-8	<i>Essential meaning and antidote</i>
<i>The lust of the flesh</i>	She saw that the fruit was good for food (was she hungry?).	You're hungry—command these stones to me made bread.	You need this! Madison Ave. Antidote: Let God and His Word define your need (Matt. 6:33; Phil 4:19).
<i>The lust of the eyes</i>	She saw it was pleasing to the eye (In Gen. 2:9 God said all the other trees were pleasing). Their eyes were opened and they knew evil, and therefore feared.	The Devil took him to see all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor—"they are yours now for the small price of worship." Jesus looked to God, and trusted in His timing.	You need this NOW! No waiting, no suffering, no inconvenience, no payments until 2000. The Credit Industry. Antidote: Worship God, wait upon Him and His provision, endure suffering and deprivation in the pursuit of a worthy goal if necessary.
<i>The pride of life</i>	"You will be like God, knowing good and evil." They were already made in the image of God, and knew good (behold it was very good). "You won't surely die" (i.e., "You can get away with it with no real consequences"). They foolishly risked Paradise for a knowledge of evil.	Jump off the pinnacle of the temple; God will hold you up. No consequences; you will gain a lot of notoriety, recognition, fame, attention, launch your ministry; take a dare.	Go ahead, you can get away with it—there won't be any real consequences. This is the Devil's "wisdom," seek pleasure and avoid pain at all costs. Good is evil and evil is good. Antidote: The wisdom of God, humility, law of sowing and reaping, the urgency of obedience.