

Why Does a Loving God Allow
Me to be Tempted?

Why Does a Loving God Allow Me to be Tempted?

- Last lesson in the series of “Why Does a Loving God...?”
 - How Can a Loving God Allow Evil to Exist?
 - How Can a Loving God Send Anyone to Hell?
 - Why Did a Loving God Make Me This Way?
- Three legitimate Bible questions to be considered:
 - Does a loving God allow me to be tempted?
 - Why does God allow me to be tempted?
 - How does my loving God limit the temptations He allows?

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- Reconciling James 1:13 with Matt. 6:13
 - James 1:13 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”
 - Matt. 6:13 - “And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- Is there a difference between deliberately tempting someone and leading someone into temptation?
 - Purposefully trying to get someone to sin
 - Thoughtlessly or inadvertently acting in such a way that motivates someone to sin

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- What differentiates between tempting and not tempting?
 - Rom. 14:21 - "...anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak"
- Our actions move a brother to falter in his service, to actually sin, or to be weakened in his spirit
 - Rom. 14:14-15 - "Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil"
 - 1Cor. 8:13 - "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- If simply presenting the opportunity to sin is only providing him with the opportunity to be tempted, then how is the one presenting such an opportunity at fault?
- Can God be held responsible for permitting the opportunity to sin to exist?

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- What constitutes temptation?
 - Inordinate desire + opportunity = temptation
 - In the absence of either factor, temptation does not exist
- Temptation is not:
 - Noting that someone else is doing something you believe to be wrong
 - Hearing someone else say something wrong
 - Going some place where wrong occurs
- Only when you have both desire and opportunity to commit the sin can it be considered temptation

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- James 1:13 - God does not tempt people to sin
 - “For God cannot be tempted with evil.”
- Temptation is a subject which does not pertain to him. He stands aloof from it altogether.
 - There is no evil passion to be gratified; He is good
 - There is no desire for power; He has all power
 - There is no desire for wealth; He has infinite resources
 - There is pursuit of happiness; He is already in heaven

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- God does not tempt any man. He places nothing before any human being to pressure him to do wrong.
- We are perpetually thinking that God does place before us inducements to lead us to sin.
 - Men think His doctrines put them in positions where they have no choice but to sin.
 - Since all things are under his control, when we sin, it is because He chose for us to sin.
 - Since he created us with human dispositions, He expects us to sin
 - Since God in His Providence places trials in our path that tempt us to sin, and since He has the power to remove things that tempt us, He must want us to sin; otherwise, He would prevent us from sinning
 - Since He permits some to tempt others when He might easily prevent it if He chose, this is the same as tempting them Himself.

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- God does not place inducements before us with a view that we should sin. The real source of temptation is within ourselves
 - James 1:14 - “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- How does that fit with what Jesus said?
 - Matt. 6:13 - “And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”
- Similar to David’s prayer
 - Psalm 141:3-4 - “Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. 4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies.”
- Pleading God’s promise
 - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- Two different words:
 - James 1:13 - “peirazo: to test, scrutinize, entice, discipline, assay, examine, prove, tempt, try” (Strongs)
 - Matt. 6:13 - “peirasmon: sore trial; comes from peiro - to pierce through as with a spear or spit”
- That is: “do not bring us into sore trials”
 - The Vulgate renders it “quam ferre non possimus” or “that which we cannot bear.”
- “Lead us not in”: This is a Hebraism; God is said to do a thing which He only permits to be done.
 - This phrase must be understood in the sense of permitting, not purposefully leading astray.

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- If we choose to think when we succumb to temptation that God is responsible because He permitted the trial to take place, the problem lies with our reasoning and not with reality.
- Like praying for “daily bread” when we know God has promised to provide for us -- we know God has promised to protect us from overwhelming trials, but Jesus teaches us to ask Him for it anyway.

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- Temptations are to be prayed against because of:
 - The discomfort and trouble they cause
 - The danger we are in of being overcome
 - The guilt and grief that follow giving in to them

Does A Loving God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- Be certain to understand the question
 - It is not the fallacious syllogism:
 - God allows me to be tempted,
 - When I am tempted, I fall into sin,
 - Therefore, God is responsible for my sin, and He cannot be considered loving
 - It is: Why does a loving God allow me to be tempted?

Why Does a Loving God Allow
Me to be Tempted?

Why Does a Loving God Allow Me to be Tempted?

- Three legitimate Bible questions to be considered:
 - Does a loving God allow me to be tempted?
 - Why does God allow me to be tempted?
 - How does my loving God limit the temptations He allows?

Why Does God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- Not all trials are the result of external malice; they can result from temptation
 - Jesus' temptations
 - Matt. 4:1-11 - "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."
 - Heb. 4:15 - "...but was in all points tempted as we are..."
 - Our temptations can be external burdens or internal conflict

Why Does God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- All things God purposes for man are good
 - James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
- Including difficult things
 - Heb. 12:9-11 - “Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Why Does God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- We choose whether or not we will see the good and be refined by the hardship, or focus on the difficulty and pain and allow the test to overwhelm us and give into the temptation
 - James 1:2-4 - “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
 - Rom. 5:3 - “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance”

Why Does God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- In fact, we can choose to be happy about it
 - Matt. 5:10-12 - “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
 - Acts 5:41 - “So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 1 - Abraham: proves us to ourselves
 - Gen. 18:19 - “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”
 - Gen. 22:1, 16-18 - “Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham... 16 By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son - 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 2 - Paul: builds confidence in others
 - Phil. 1:12-14 - “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 3 - Job: sets a model of perseverance for others
 - Job 2:3, 10 - “Then the LORD said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause... 10 ...Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity? In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”
 - James 5:11 - “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 4 - Hope
 - Rom. 5:3-4 - “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”
 - 1Peter 1:6-9 - “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 5 - Validation
 - James 1:12 - “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”
 - 1Peter 4:14 - “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 6 - Fellowship with Jesus
 - Peter 4:12-13 - “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.”
 - Rom. 8:16-17 - “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 7 - Corrective discipline
 - Heb. 12:6-8, 12-13 - “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons... 12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.”
 - Deut. 8:3-5 - “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. 4 Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. 5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 8 - Build us up
 - Psalm 66:10-12 - “For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. 11 You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. 12 You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.”
 - Zech. 13:9 - “I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.’”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 9 - To save others
 - Isa. 53:5-6 - “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
 - Gen. 50:20 - “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 10 - To keep us from other sins
 - 2Cor. 12:7 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”
 - 1Cor. 11:32 - “But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 11 - To illuminate sins we have committed
 - Ex. 9:27 - “And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked.”
 - Num. 21:7 - “Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people.”

What Good Purposes Are Served By Temptation?

- 12 - To manifest the love of God
 - Psalm 119:75 - “I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.”
 - Prov. 3:12 - “For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.”
 - Rev. 3:19 - “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

Why Does God Allow Me To Be Tempted?

- Do we need these things?
- Then when God gives us these things by allowing us to be tried and tempted, is He not showing Himself to be a loving God?

How Does My Loving God Limit The Temptations He Allows?

- They are foretold
 - 2Tim. 3:12 - “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
 - John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
 - Acts 14:22 - “Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

How Does My Loving God Limit The Temptations He Allows?

- They are comparatively light
 - Rom. 8:18 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
 - 2Cor. 4:17 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”

How Does My Loving God Limit The Temptations He Allows?

- They are temporary
 - Psalm 30:5 - “For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.”
 - Isa. 54:8 - “With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you, Says the LORD, your Redeemer.”
 - 1Peter 5:10 - “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”

How Does My Loving God Limit The Temptations He Allows?

- They end in joy
 - Psalm 126:5 - “Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.”
 - Isa. 61:3 - “To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”
 - Matt. 5:4 - “Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”

Lessons

- In the admonition of Jesus, plead the promise of God for strength to overcome
- In the admonition of James, thank God for the trial that makes you stronger
- In the admonition of Peter, view the temptation as fellowship with Jesus
- In the admonition of Paul, see the temptation as proof of salvation
- In the admonition of David, regard the temptation as evidence of God's love