

**1 Corinthians 10:13 ( KJV )**

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

We pray every day, *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

We all are tempted. Even our Lord was tempted. The point is to resist temptations. Our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters call those inclinations of temptation, *Logismoi*, and the best way to overcome those *Logismoi* is to ignore them. Whenever they begin to trouble you pray, pray and pray. The Jesus Prayer, *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me, a sinner,*” Is particularly effective.

Don't be like the wife that brought home a new dress one day. Her husband asked her why she did that, to which she replied that the Devil made me do it. He then asked her if she couldn't have said, “Get thee behind me Satan.” She In turn replied, “I did, and he said it looked good from back there, too.”

Life is full of temptations. Life seems to be made up of temptations, sometimes.

Like the story in today's Gospel of the Prodigal Son. There is an example of temptation acted upon to its fullest extent. Here you have the youngest son taking his entire inheritance and spending ninety percent of it on women and booze and then just wasting the rest of it.

But, seriously, this is a story of what temptation can do..... and what God's redeeming mercy can do.

God doesn't say I'm going to remove temptations from you. God tells us He will give us a way out of those them. In other words, He will give us the strength of the Holy Spirit to withstand them.... not eliminate them.

If you have ever lived in South Georgia you know what a "No see um" is. A "No see um" is a tiny gnat that will drive you nuts. You can't see them. But they are there, everywhere.

They are there, everywhere, just like those same tacky temptations we have every day, day after day, week after week, year after year.

We got'em but we don't have to give in to them. We have help.

Paul tells us in **Hebrews 2:18 (KJV)** *For in that he(Jesus) himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

For in that he (Jesus) himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to help those that are tempted.

There are those times for all of us when we will yield to temptation. That's because we are human. That is because we are imperfect.

We may not go to the extremes that the Prodigal Son went to but we can rest assured that if we repent of our actions and turn back to God, He will welcome us with open arms.

There is nothing that we can do that will keep God from taking us back if we repent and ask His forgiveness. Nothing.

But the clue is to keep from giving- in in the first place.

Like we have talked about before, our life journey with God is not a straight path. There are many detours and blind alleys. There are back-tracks and slides into the ditches. There are terrifyingly dark valleys and steep cliffs.

But we are never alone. God is always there to give us a helping hand when we ask for it. And that is true in all that we do and in all circumstances that we get ourselves into.

Let me leave you with one final thought on the subject.

On the TV show "Hee Haw," Doc Campbell is confronted by a patient who says he broke his arm in two places. The doc replies, "Well then, stay out of them places!"

He may have something there. We cannot regularly put ourselves in the face of temptation and not be affected. When faced with the problem of temptation, we need to take the good doctor's advice and "stay out of them places."