

# THE DANGER OF YIELDING TO TEMPTATION

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## REMEMBER THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

I am happy as the bible is there to educate everybody either as an individual or as a church collectively concerning the danger of yielding to temptation as we all should open the bible to the book of **Romans 8:33-38**. <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." <sup>37</sup>Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With this clear understanding, it is proper also to get the awareness of what yielding to temptation had brought to the entire world till now – **Genesis 3:1-11**. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup>but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup>Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you

eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was <sup>[a]</sup>pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves <sup>[b]</sup>coverings.

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the <sup>[c]</sup>sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the <sup>[d]</sup>cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” This is where temptation came and the fall of our father and mother i.e. (Adam and Eve). My dear brethren, there were no excuses right from Adam to Eve even the cunning serpent, though Adam wanted to shift blame to God. We need detail understanding of God and His word as we shall also expect questions – **Genesis 3:12-19**. <sup>12</sup> Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup> And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust, All the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” <sup>16</sup> To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be <sup>[a]</sup>for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” <sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall <sup>[b]</sup>bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. <sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”

In the New Testament, Christ the founder and owner of His church who brought Christianity is a pattern of example, who knew the danger of yielding to temptation as He stood His ground after fasting for forty days and forty nights – **Matthew 4:1-11**. *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” <sup>4</sup>But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not [a]tempt the Lord your God.’” <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, [b]“Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

My dear brethren, do you not think we are facing temptation, as we have not been fasting and praying for the past three months including the all-night prayers collectively as a church? If Christ Himself can fast and pray for forty days and forty nights and yet Satan still came to tempt Him and what of we, elders, deacons, ministers, brothers and sisters in the local congregation? Our God is wonderful as I was given the opportunity to speak timely on this topic, The Danger of Yielding to Temptation. The inspired word of God is going to address all of us now according to **1 Peter 5:1-11**. *The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but [a]willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup>nor as being [b]lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup>and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will*

receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be [c]sober, be [d]vigilant; [e]because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. <sup>10</sup> But [f]may the God of all grace, who called [g]us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, [h]perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. <sup>11</sup> To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. Peter did not yield including John – **Acts 4:18-21**. <sup>18</sup> So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” <sup>21</sup> So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. It is proper to know where we were and where we are now, and where we shall be, if in reality we are Christians with words of God’s encouragements – **Acts 4:13-16**. <sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. <sup>15</sup> But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, <sup>16</sup> saying, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a [a]notable miracle has been done through them is evident[b] to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

Take note that Peter was just a fisher man but he stood his ground, all the time – **Acts 5:27-32**. <sup>27</sup> And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, <sup>28</sup> saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to

*obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. <sup>31</sup> Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” Finally, Peter refused to take bribe knowing the danger of yielding to temptation – **Acts 8:18-22.** <sup>18</sup> And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” <sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! <sup>21</sup> You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. <sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.*

## **Conclusion**

Our reader should read **Acts 20:27-32.**

*<sup>27</sup> For I have not [a]shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church [b]of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking [c]perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup> “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

May God help all of us to understand the danger of yielding to temptation, and remain faithful to Him in Jesus Name – Amen. Hymn 663.