



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY 01

MATTHEW 4:1-4

Temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted in all the ways we are, yet He was without sin (see Heb. 4:15). Sin is making a choice that misses the mark of what God wants for our lives. Temptation is the enticement, bait, or draw to sin. The devil's temptation was not really about bread but about enticing Jesus to trust Himself and disobey God. Jesus chose to trust in God's provision by resisting the temptation to disobey God's instructions. Jesus experienced intense hunger, but God met his needs in the wilderness.

WHY DOES THE DEVIL WANT US TO DOUBT THE GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS OF GOD?

WHAT IS A TEMPTATION YOU'RE FACING RIGHT NOW THAT YOU NEED TO BRING TO GOD IN PRAYER?

Pray: Honestly tell God what temptation(s) you're facing right now. Ask Him to show you the way to escape every temptation. Tell God that you trust He is good and faithful!

MATTHEW 4:5-7

HOW CAN TAKING SHORTCUTS (SKIPPING OVER SUFFERING) IN GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES BE HARMFUL?

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU'RE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW THAT YOU KNOW IS GOOD BUT IS HARD TO ENDURE?

The devil offered Jesus a shortcut, showing the Jews He was their Messiah. The temple was the holiest place on earth for the Jews. The pinnacle was the highest point of the wall of the temple. The devil said if Jesus leapt off the pinnacle of the temple, the Jews would see Him caught by angels, which would show Jesus as Messiah without all the suffering. Jesus chose to endure the suffering within God's plan rather than enjoy shortcuts outside God's plan.

Pray: Ask God to continue to show you His plan for your life. Tell God you trust His plan and commit yourself to walk in every step of His plan for your

MATTHEW 4:8-11

In his third temptation, the devil offered Jesus a global kingdom without a cross—promotion without pain. Whatever Jesus might have gained from the devil wasn't worth what He'd lose with the Father. Adam and Eve gained a mouth full of fruit and lost the garden with God. Jesus didn't need the devil to be His promoter. Jesus trusted God's promotion. Jesus honored the Father by not bowing before the devil. The Father has given Jesus the name before which all will one day bow (see Phil. 2:10).

WHY IS GOD'S PROMOTION IN OUR LIVES WORTH ANY COST?

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF WE TRUST IN THE WORLD'S PROMOTION INSTEAD OF GOD'S PROMOTION?

Pray: Declare your trust that, no matter the challenges you face, God will always take care of you and provide for you. Ask Him to lead you in His plans for your life.

DAY 04

CORINTHIANS 10:13-14

WHAT ARE SOME PEOPLE AND/OR PRACTICES IN YOUR LIFE YOU CAN REMOVE TO HELP YOU RESIST TEMPTATION?

WHAT ARE SOME GOOD ACTIVITIES AND WHO ARE SOME GOOD PEOPLE YOU CAN FILL MORE OF YOUR TIME WITH?

A temptation is a pull toward something that is not God's will for our lives. Sometimes it can feel like you're the only one dealing with a specific temptation. You're not. Christians all around the world can relate to the temptations you're facing. Trust God to always provide a way out of temptation. His Holy Spirit will lead you out of temptation and into righteousness when you ask Him and His people for help.

Pray: Ask God to show you people or practices that need to be removed from your life. Commit to remove those things and replace them with people and practices that will help you serve God.

DAY 05

2 TIMOTHY 2:20-21

You are not made to resist temptation and serve God alone. You need pastors, leaders, and friends who can walk with you. The Bible doesn't just tell us to flee (run away from) youthful passions (lust). It tells us to do so alongside pure-hearted people. The Bible also tells us to replace a pursuit of youthful lusts with a pursuit of righteousness, faith, love, and peace. Filling your time with godly people and godly pursuits will greatly help you resist temptation and walk in God's plan.

© 2011

WHY DO WE NEED OTHERS TO HELP US RESIST TEMPTATION AND PURSUE GOD?

WHO IS A LEADER OR TRUSTED FRIEND IN YOUR LIFE YOU CAN TEXT OR CALL TO PRAY FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE TEMPTED?

Pray: Ask God to show you who to talk to about your struggles. Commit to share about your temptations and struggles with trusted leaders and friends.