

Reading: James 1:1-16

*“Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own desires, and enticed” (Js 1:14)*

The first two sentences each newborn babe in Christ should learn are, “Yes, Lord!” and “No, Thanks!” The first one is his instant response to whatever God says, and the next one his immediate reply to whatever Satan suggests. Adam as the first man of the human race was defeated because he failed to say, “No, Thanks!” to the devil, whereas Jesus the Second Adam leads humanity in triumph because He outrightly rejected Satan’s suggestions. We will have a comparative study on this today, so we may not blame anyone or anything for our failure.

*<sup>18</sup> Bodily cravings*

Jesus overcame the temptation when He was really hungry after forty days of fasting, whereas Adam and Eve failed even when they had all the fruits and vegetables at their disposal (Mt 4:2; Gen 2:16). God has given us enough and more. We must learn to be content. Be content with your wife, your husband, your possessions, and so on. “Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body” (1 Cor 6:13). God was greatly displeased when David said yes to his flesh and took another man’s wife. God expressed His grief and disappointment through Nathan (2 Sam 12:8,9). Don’t throw the blame on your body saying the flesh is weak. That’s why God has given us the Holy Spirit. If we walk in the Spirit, we shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Gal 5:16,24).

*<sup>18</sup> Satan’s suggestions*

Eve threw the blame on the serpent (Gen 3:13). May be she justified herself that Satan presented a temptation that was too much for her to resist. “Good for food... pleasant to the eyes... desirable to make one wise” (Gen 3:6). The temptations of Jesus in the wilderness had the same triple strength (Mt 4:4,7,10). The offer for Him was also quite attractive. But He refused. Because, He knew that “all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world” (1 Jn 2:16). No doubt Satan is strong but that’s no excuse for us because He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world (1 Jn 4:4). We ought to be victorious! Satan is a defeated foe. Christ is the Victor and Christians are to be victors, not victims of the enemy of God. No temptation is too strong to resist. For every temptation God has provided a way of escape (1 Cor 10:13).

*Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin,  
Each victory will help you some other to win!*

*(Horatio R. Palmer, 1834-1907)*

Almighty God, we worship You as the Lord of the Armies. You have always triumphed victoriously. No one can stand against You. You are the Sovereign King. You are our Jehovah-Nissi with the banner of victory always hoisted for us against the enemy. You have set the limit for the raging waves, and they cannot disobey Your Word. Your Word is sharper than a two-edged sword which Satan cannot resist. Everything is under Your supreme control because there's no power greater than Yours.

Dear Father, we Your children come to You with our weaknesses and failures. Forgive us for blaming our natural bodily craving instead of depending on Your strength. Forgive us for believing the lies of the devil instead of Your sure promises. Forgive us for inventing excuses instead of accepting our failures to take safeguarding measures You have prescribed in Your Word. Forgive us for silencing our conscience and making it blunt instead of staying sensitive to the voice of Your Spirit. Forgive us for twisting Your commandments to suit our convenience instead of obeying them unquestioningly. Forgive us for forsaking the old paths of righteousness but following the corruptive ways of the world. Sorry, Lord, we often shun Your minority but side with the devil's majority.

Dear Lord, we are sorry for the instances when we displeased You by yielding to Satan, Your and our enemy. We are sorry for the instances when we dishallowed Your name by indulging in sinful pleasures. We are sorry for the instances in which we blamed others for our failures. We are weak, Lord. Strengthen us by Your Spirit so our response to Satan is a sustained and standing "No!" Help us overcome the Adamic nature of blameshifting. Grow in us, O Father, the nature and mind of Christ to keep ourselves holy in all circumstances.

Father God, help us rejoice in Your Word than in the perishing riches of this world. Remove from us our blindspots which are responsible for our habit of slighting sin. Give us a fresh vision of Your holiness. Delete from our minds the unworthy worldly concepts and rewrite "*Holiness unto the Lord*" in and out. Let us not play any more with sin but run to You instantly to hide under Your wings. Forgive us for getting angry with those who point out our failures. Save us from the tendency to become the friends of the world forsaking intimacy with You. Thank You for Your promise of the crown of life when we endure temptation and overcome it. In the Name of Jesus the Victor, Amen!

*(Psa 24:10; Ex 17:14-16; Mt 8:25,26; Heb 4:12; 7:26; Gen 3:1-6,12,13; 1 Tim 1:19;  
Jer 6:16; Job 31:33,34; 1 Jn 2:15-17; Js 1:12; 4:4; Zech 14:20; 1 Chr 10:13)*