

Desire, Opportunity and Temptation

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SUMMARY: *Are these three different?*

1 Desire comes first

Someone forwarded a quote to our group and got me thinking. "Opportunity may knock only once but temptation leans on the doorbell." - Oprah Winfrey.

Opportunity is the chance to execute a **pre-existing desire**. Without a pre-meditated intention, a situation cannot become an opportunity. If you have no desire for ice-cream, seeing an ice-cream shop would not become an opportunity to buy ice-cream.

2 Temptation is external

Preachers often equate temptations with desires and opportunities. That is quite corrupt. Temptations originate from outside a person's desires and mental scope.

3 Temptation and Boundaries

Desiring ice-cream is not a temptation but the suggestion to steal the ice-cream is the

temptation. Temptation is an urge to attempt exploiting an opportunity by violating a boundary. And what is a boundary? A fence demarcates **the end** of what belongs to you and **the start** of what belongs to someone else.

Temptation is a suggestion to convert another's property into an unfair affair to fulfill an unsharring or uncaring desire.

4 Two relationships

A boundary has **two sides** and a presumed **contract of equality** between the **two people**. Temptation involves including someone who should be **excluded** or excluding someone who should be **included**. All temptations habour falsehood.

5 Temptation to exclude

Assume you get into a **contract to share** with your sales partner information about mango customers. If you come across someone who wants to buy only ten

mangos, you would readily share the information because it would **build trust** and future sales from your partner.

What if you come across someone who wants to pay a million for mangos? It may trigger a desire to get rich quickly and turn into an opportunity to prosper alone. By withholding the information, you could make a large profit without sharing.

Such a temptation seeks to exclude a partner who should be included. The boundary gets shifted to omit your partner.

6 Temptation to include

You and your partner have **agreed** to form a company in which you hire employees on the basis of competency and business value. You then consider to employ an incapable relative in the company based on your filial ties without your partner's consent.

In this case, the temptation is seeking to include someone who should be excluded. It brings a suggestion to unfairly get someone cross a boundary that defines competence.

7 Tempting yourself

Temptation can also apply to the self. We often attempt to rob from ourselves to feed another aspect of ourselves. Sleeping more at the expense of **working** is the outcome of a temptation to steal from our work to feed pleasure. When the victim and the villain are the same person, we call it **self-theft**.

8 Tempting the Guider

Even stranger is when we attempt to tempt the eternal Guider into our own affairs.

Don't mention God or **God's will** in a venture that is purely based on your own desires. Religiously showy people often do this when seeking marital partners or funds. Don't pray to ask God to manipulate a situation or person into your own liking.

God is not selfish; He helps you identify things that belong to someone else not things that (can) belong to you!

Don't label your desires as God's will; that is blasphemy. It is witchery and sorcery to claim God's will when you want something from someone. **Be godly** in what you do but don't invoke God in what you say. (Irony is that 'god' literally means 'the invoked one'.)

Don't seek an unfair way to God's aid. Instead, seek **fair trade** in a godly way! All temptations attempt to sideline the **real character** of the Guider from your choices by introducing selfish traits from false gods!

9 Tempting with "Bless you"

We often beg for help and then *repay* or *reply* by saying "God bless you!" Words cannot **compensate**. **Pay back** with gifts, services or money and not wishful words.

*If you can't say it with your **knees and hands** rather than your mouth, it is not a blessing; it is the blasphemy of bless-for-me!*