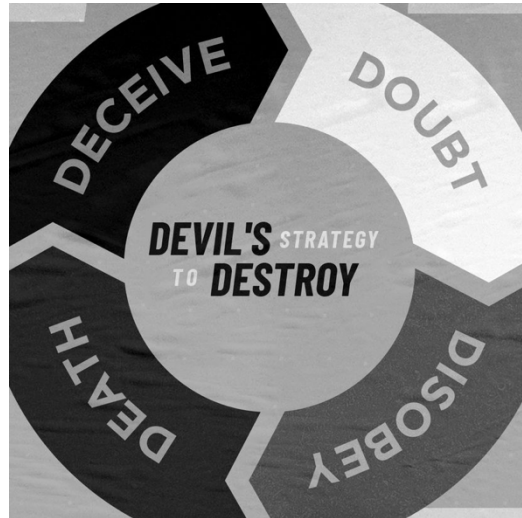


TEMPTATION

A Care + Counsel Resource



The devil's goal is to seek, kill, and destroy. His names reveal his schemes. He is the accuser; Jesus is our advocate. He is the adversary, a roaring lying seeking people to devour. He is the father of lies. He lies because he is a liar - and has been from the beginning.

His strategy has been the same since the Garden - to deceive, to make sin appear to satisfy. When deceived, we begin to doubt God (did God really say? Is God withholding something? Is following God worth it?). When we're deceived and doubt, we disobey. But sin always overpromises and underdelivers. What follows is death - regret and consequences.

How have you seen this cycle play out in your life?

<i>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. - 1 Corinthians 10:13</i>	
Lie	Truth
My struggle is unique	<i>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.</i>
God has abandoned me	<i>God is faithful</i>
My struggle is overwhelming	<i>God will not let you be tempted beyond your ability</i>
I'm trapped	<i>God will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.</i>



Desire leads to temptation. Temptation cannot exist where desires don't exist. Desires seek fulfillment.

All temptation leads to a decision. Regardless of whether the temptation is alcohol, lying, cheating, stealing, pornography - all temptation leads to a decision.

And the decision is a fork in the road - the decision to doubt God or the decision trust God.

- When you doubt that God satisfies and will you provide, you are deceived thinking your way is better. So, you disobey.
- When you act in faith, the outcome is obedience and life.
- One path leads to bondage, the other leads to freedom. One path leads to guilt and regret, the other leads to peace. One path leads to consequences, the other path leads to blessing.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Proverbs 14:12

I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life ...

Deuteronomy 30:19