

Change Points!

Week Three – Temptation

Memory Verse: Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. (Jesus – Mt. 16:24, The Message Translation)

Video introduction by Pastor Steve

Recap of week three "Change Points!" message:

- What is temptation? Temptation is a test that reveals what is. (Heb. 2:18)
- God tests to strengthen us. Satan tempts to destroy us. (Jn. 10:10)
- Why does temptation succeed? (Gen. 3:1-7; Mt. 4:1-11)
- Temptation succeeds when we do not trust God the Father. (James 1:14)
- Temptation fails when we do trust God the Father.
- It's not about trying harder, it's about trusting more!
- Temptation is a change point that calls us to deeper trust in God the Father's heart.

Next Step:

- Focus on trusting God the Father's heart for you.
- Thank God for the tests He used to deepen your trust in Him.

Questions to explore:

1. How does temptation as a test reveal what is true about a person? In Gen. 3:1-7, what did Adam and Eve's giving into temptation reveal about them? In Mt. 4:1-11, what did Jesus' response to temptation reveal about him?
2. When dealing with temptation, why can focusing on trusting God's heart and plan for you be more helpful than simply focusing on resisting the temptation itself? Explore the statement about facing temptation: "It's not about trying harder, it's about trusting more."
3. How does a suspicion and distrust of God's heart for us make us vulnerable to temptation? How does an ever deepening trust of God's heart for us cause temptation to lose its power?

Challenge question:

- Share a temptation/test that worked to deepen your trust in God the Father.
- What is the one area of your life that is most difficult for you to trust God the Father's heart and plan for your life? Why might it be so challenging? What steps can you take to deepen your trust in the Father's love and plan for you?