

TRIAL AND TEMPTATION

INTRODUCTION

There are several words that are used interchangeably in the Bible which seem to have similar meaning and are even used as synonyms for each other by many, but yet they have some distinctions. Such words are used throughout the Bible, and make for the coded nature of the letters of the Bible which add to the mysteries thereof. The lack of distinction in true understanding of these words makes for spiritual blindness and ignorance foundationally in many Believers of God and His Christ.

Therefore, by this lack of distinct differentiation in meaning of such words, many in their biblical knowledge do err in scriptures, not knowing the power of God or the wisdom of God. As it were, it is not given spiritually to the Many to know these differences, but only to the Few. **Mtt 22:29; Mk 12:24,27**

One term can be found to be a set or subset of the other. Thereby making for slight differentiations between them that are major at the end, in the gaining of spiritual insights to the mysteries of the kingdom and of God. Therefore, many end up mixing up the actual spiritual understanding of these terms to their confusion and hurt. Such are then found perpetually in error where the decoding of the mysteries of God is concerned. **Mtt 13:9-17,34-35;**

The Scriptures and the gospel are coded to the carnally minded being letters unto them, but revealed or decodable unto the spiritually minded that are given the divine insights to these letters as it pleases the LORD. **Lk 10:21-24; 2 Pet 3:15-18; 2 Cor 3:6**

In this literature, by the grace of our Lord Jesus, we shall be dealing with another one of these severally overlooked foundational concepts. Such is fundamental to the spiritual understanding of the believer where the knowledge of the operation of Man is in relationship with God and our adversary, the Devil, in this world is concerned. The words we shall be decoding herein are TRIAL and TEMPTATION. Do they mean the same thing or are they distinct? How are they related? Is one a subset of the other? Who does which between God and Satan towards Man?

It takes the Spirit of truth at work in a man to differentiate these words and to bring out their true distinguishing meaning. These things would sound foolish and too “technical” to the natural man. But they make for requisite wisdom taught by the Holy Ghost to those that are spiritually

minded by which they can answer biblical questions and have insights to things of God that others can never know and understand.

WORLDLY DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS CAN BE MISLEADING

In many instances concerning words, terms and usage, the worldly English dictionary definitions are at variance, slightly or greatly, with Biblical given understandings or meanings of same words or terms as it were. For those that are Bible students or seekers of the truth such distinctions in meaning are important to having spiritual understanding of the Word of God as contained in the Holy book called the Bible. Without it you will only know letters, but never the spirit behind the letters; for the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life. **2 Cor 3:6, 13-17; Jn 7:15**

Jn 6: 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Our understanding of words cannot be limited or tied solely to the definitions of the dictionaries of the children of this world, but rather it has to be tied to the word of truth by the Spirit to accommodate God's own definition of words primarily. God is a Spirit and not flesh and His definitions are spiritually inclined and not carnally inclined as it were. If your understandings of words are limited only to English dictionary definitions, then spiritual understandings of same words will elude you. **Jn 4:24-26**

Isa 55: 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. **Vr.9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

I Cor 2: 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **Vr.13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth [*as can be defined in English dictionaries*], but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **Vr.14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

There is difference between the terms, "trial" and "temptation" where the Bible is concerned, but not so in the English dictionary definition of them. The dictionary defines Trial as "the state of being tried or tempted"; "that which tries or afflicts; that which tries the character or principles; that which tempts to evil;", invariably rending it as a synonym for temptation to the undiscerning mind as it were.

It is when one gets or understands the true spiritual meaning of the two terms that you can then be able to deduce which is being referred to wherever the words are used or stated in the Bible. If not the usage of the terms in certain context might have a different meaning to what the context is trying to convey. Or one term is used as letters instead having the meaning of the other term in certain context. And that is where the error stems from as it were.

In the letters of the Bible, the words “trial” and “temptation or tempt” are integrated and used interchangeably. But the spiritually discerning believer can tell the difference wherever the letters are used by differentiating them. Unfortunately, many being carnal and wise in the letters continually substitute each of these words for each other mentally, ending up in error of understanding when reading the Bible.

MEANING AND PURPOSE OF TRIAL

Trial is of God and He uses it to perfect the righteous and expose the wicked amongst men in the world. Man undergoes trial in one form or the other and at one time or the other in life. For by trial, God differentiates the righteous at heart from the wicked at heart as a result of their doings. By trial God is able to determine whether you will refuse the evil and do the good or do the evil and reject the good.

Isa 7:14-16 (Vr.15) Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

I Jn 3: 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. **Vr.10** In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

God tries the righteous in order to see whether he would do righteously at such times or do wickedly instead as a result of such times. God allows the wicked to experience His goodness to see whether they would repent and do righteously instead of continuing in wickedness. That is their own form of trial. Trial is geared at bringing out righteousness in you if it is truly in you at all. It is targeted majorly at the righteous than at the wicked. **Mtt 4:1-3; Isa 26:10**

Rom 2:1-6 (Vr.4) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? **Vr.5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; **Vr.6** Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Mtt 5: 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Lk 6: 43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. **Vr.44** For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. **Vr.45** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Ezek 18: 26 When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. **Vr.27** Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. **Vr.28** Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. **Vr.32** For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Trial is a situation contrived in order to prove a man in a test of his obedience to the commandment of God. So, you have to be aware or knowledgeable about His commands in order for you to be tried by God in such areas. Those that are ignorant of the commandment of God cannot be tried in it as it were. You are tried according to what you know and not by what you do not know.

God tries men with both good and evil things, that is, in favourable and unfavourable conditions of life. How? with afflictions, sufferings, prosperity, abundance and the likes. At unpleasant times, the righteous overcome evil with good, while the wicked seek to overcome same evil with evil during such periods. **Rom 12:17-21; Job 42:11**

Lk 12:13-21 (Vr.16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: **Vr.17** and he reasoned within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have not where to bestow my fruits? **Vr.18** And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods. **Vr.19** And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry. **Vr.20** But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? **Vr.21** So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Lk 16: 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Deu 8:1-20 (Vr.2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. **Vr.3** And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know;

that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. **Vr.12** Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; **Vr.13** And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; **Vr.14** Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; **Vr.15** Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; **Vr.16** Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; **Vr.17** And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

Trial is a test meant to proving your reliance, faith and trust in God's love and faithfulness towards you in the face of certain situations, whether good or bad. God can test you with abundance or with lack. Trials come in order to weigh on a balance or test your belief in God. It is an attempt to determine or demonstrate in whom your faith lieth. By it God searches the hearts of men to know the intents thereof. **I Chron 28:9**

Jer 17: 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Vr.10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Exo 16: 4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Ps 139: 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: **Vr.24** And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Trials are spiritual promotion examinations that the righteous are made to undergo in life. Without passing them you cannot be promoted to the next level of your spiritual walk with the Lord. So, you have to be mindful to know and pass each of them. Unfortunately, the carnally minded are oblivious of this fact being not spiritually sensitive and knowledgeable of trials when they come. In their error, they see it as temptation instead or evil from the Devil that needs to be resisted by all means possible. **I Sam 15:1-29; Job 42:11-17**

Hebr 5: 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; **Vr.9** And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebr 12: 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. **Vr.11** Now no chastening for the present

seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Gen 50: 20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

MEANING AND PURPOSE OF TEMPTATION

Dictionary definition-Temptation is something that seduces or has the quality to seduce; the desire to have or do something that you know you should avoid.

Temptation is of the Devil and not of God. Satan uses temptation to get men to sin and rebel against God and His word. Temptation is a calculated attempt geared at causing a man to sin against God and thereby commit evil.

Mk 13: 22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

Every man under the sun undergoes temptations in one form or the other without exception. In the face of either pleasant or unpleasant situations and circumstances, temptation is geared at getting men to do unrighteousness. They wicked shall always fall for temptation unlike the righteous at heart.

I Jn 3: 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. **Vr.8** He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **Vr.9** Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. **Vr.10** In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,

Temptation is contrived in order to get a man specifically to disobey the commandment of God in doing wickedness or unrighteousness. It is usually targeted at those that are knowledgeable of the commandment of God and that keep them. The ignorant are mincemeat for the Devil where temptations are concerned because the whole of their lives is one temptation or the other. By temptation Satan holds them captive in the bondage of sin and ignorance as sinners continually without escape. **Rev 12:17**

2 Cor 11: 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **Vr.4** For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Gen 39:7-21 (Vr.7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master' wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. **Vr.8** But he refused, and said unto his master' wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; **Vr.9** There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Hos 4: 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge,

Therefore, God does not tempt a man with evil or with the act of doing wickedness, because that would mean that He wants to get the man to disobey Him which is not true. Rather it is the Devil that is engaged in the business of wickedness by getting men to sin against God. God is not a tempter rather Satan is.

THE ROOT OF TEMPTATION

In order to identify what is at the root of temptation we will need to determine how the chief tempter, the Devil, fell in his time before the creation of Man. And subsequently, how Adam fell in Eden in his own time.

Jam 1: 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man [*with evil*]: **Vr.14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Isa 14: 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **Vr.13** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **Vr.14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Ezek 28:15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. **Vr.16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. **Vr.17** Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, **Vr.18** Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick;

From the foregoing we can gather that it was Lucifer's desire to ascend by himself to a height, status or position that God had not given to him that occasioned his fall. Due to Lucifer's

inordinate ambition driven by lust and manifestation of pride, sin was birthed in him that brought him to the corridors of death.

Jam 1: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. **Vr.15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The position lustfully sought after by Lucifer as “the anointed cherub” was that which Christ “the Chosen and anointed one of God” was glorified unto by God and not by himself. **Hebr 1:2-9; Hebr 5:4-10**

Mtt 23: 11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. **Vr.12** And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Jam 4: 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

So, at the root of temptation is lust and pride that is geared to lead one to a fall in sin and death. As it happened to Lucifer so also to Adam in his time. **Prov 16:18**

Rom 7: 7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

A man is tempted majorly in the areas that he is gotten to lust after or full of lust for. Whatever your heart cum soul lusteth after to covet is a veritable area for you to be tempted in as it were. The world is corrupt due to the lusting of fallen men and women found therein. **2 Pet 1:4**

I Pet 2: 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

I Tim 6: 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **Vr.10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

THE WORKINGS OF TEMPTATION

Temptation is centered on lust and pride. Satan became the chief tempter after his fall from heaven unto the earth. Therefore, in the trial of the first man Adam in the garden of Eden, the tempter was there to do his own work of temptation. It is carried out through lies, and deception meant to seduce unto sinning.

The temptation was focused on three (3) major areas, which are:

- (1) Lust of the flesh = lust for Woman- the flesh of my flesh and the bone of my bone. **Gen 2:23**
- (2) Lust of the eyes = **Gen 3:6** And when the Woman saw that the tree was good, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise (devilish/carnal wisdom), she took of the fruit thereof and did eat.
- (3) The Pride of life = Covering sin/iniquity, being unrepentant, defending error by accusation. **Gen 3:12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. [*refusing to accept personal responsibility*]

By reason of Adam succumbing to Satan's temptation, he failed in the trial of God. Adam left the work he was sent into the garden to do unto lusting for another flesh which God had not commanded him concerning at the initial. And through the instrumentation of that flesh, Adam disobeyed God's commandment.

Gen 2: 15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. **Vr.20** And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him [*lust of the flesh*]. **Vr.23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Gen 3: 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes [*lust of the eyes*], and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. **Vr.12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me [*the pride of my life- I Cor 11:7*], she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **Vr.17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake;

Adam with the Woman was cast out of the garden of Eden into a world of temptations driven by lusts. Therefore, in the world the following things are involved in bringing about temptation thereof:

- 1) The flesh → your own lust stirred up by Sin. Lust of the flesh (**Rom 7:18-20; Rom 6:12**)
- 2) The world → the enticement therein – the things that are in the world – Lust of the eyes
- 3) The devil → the enticer/tempter – the pride of life – self independence from God that leads to disobedience, haughtiness

Therefore, we are admonished in the Bible thus;

I Jn 2: 15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. **Vr.16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. **Vr.17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof:

Eph 2: 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; **Vr.3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

When the Son of man, the last Adam, came into the world, in his wilderness trial he underwent temptation by the same Devil that the first man Adam encountered. And the same similar means were deployed against him but Christ overcame.

Mtt 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. **Vr.3** And when the tempter came to him, he [*started with what the flesh lusteth after when hungry-which is food/bread and*] said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread [*lust of the flesh*]. **Vr.5** Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, **Vr.6** And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone [*trying to stir up pride in him*]: **Vr.8** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them [*lust of the eyes*];

Temptation is of the workings of Satan and his cohorts against men on earth. **2 Thess 2:9**

TEMPTATION IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL

Many people are generally confused about the distinction between trial and temptation. Why? Because most of the time you will find temptation in the midst of trial, but not trial in the midst of temptation. We had opined that trial is of God, while temptation is of the Devil. The will of God is not sought to be accomplished through temptation rather it is the lust of the Devil that is. It is through your success in trial that God is glorified and His will done on earth.

I Pet 3: 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; **Vr.17** For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

I Thess 3: 3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. **Vr.4** For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. **Vr.5** For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

In the case of the garden of Eden trial of Adam, we found temptation at work therein. Another typical example of this scenario is also the case of Job in the Bible.

Job 1:1-22 (Vr.8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job [*to tempt him*], that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? **Vr.10** Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. **Vr.11** But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath [*pass him through trial*], and he will curse thee to thy face. **Vr.20** Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, **Vr.21** And said, Naked came I out of my mother' womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. **Vr.22** In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 2:1-11 (Vr.3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. **Vr.4** And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. **Vr.5** But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. **Vr.7** So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. **Vr.9** Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. **Vr.10** But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips. **Vr.11** Now when Job' three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him,

Job 42: 11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him [*through trials that he had to endure*]: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

Vr.12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

The temptation of Satan is not the trial of God, nor is the trial of God the temptation of Satan. Rather during the trial of God comes Satan also to tempt man in the process most times. Why? So that he can get you to fail the divine test (trial) you are given and fall for his own satanic test (temptation) instead. Therefore, temptation is a counterfeit of trial.

DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN THE TWO

Without having a good spiritual understanding of the difference between trial and temptation one would always be found in error interpreting several Bible passages where one is used instead of the other. Thereby ascribing to God what Satan does and to Satan what God does. For example, the Scripture says in

Gen 22: 1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham [*but we say that God does not tempt but tries*], and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. **Vr.2** And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Our assertion is proven right in the New Testament account of same in

Hebr 11: 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried [*not tempted*], offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Similarly, we have such passages that garner confusion in the usage of the words but you wouldn't be confused if you have the true understanding of the meaning of the words as we have elucidated.

Jam 1: 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations [*ought to be trials*]; **Vr.3** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **Vr.4** But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Unfortunately, many CAO adherents cannot tell the difference between trial and temptation. And therefore, are found in error while facing or handling such in life. They confuse one for the other to their error and hurt. They “come against” trials seeking to escape from them, while embracing and falling for temptations in their ignorance and foolishness. This is an error.

Rev 3: 10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation [*the time of trouble/trial*], which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. **Vr.11** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. **Vr.12** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out:

Lk 21: 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Vr.36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

God strengthens you to go through trials, while He makes a way of escape for you in temptation that follows it as it were. He empowers and helps you to go through trials rather than for you to escape from them. Why? because trials are for your own good though seemingly evil or grievous in nature, for it is God that brings or allows it to come your way. But temptations are meant for your hurt, for you to err from the faith, being of the Devil. So, the need for you to escape, flee or be delivered from the evil thereof in order not to fall.

Trials are meant for your rise/promotion, while temptations are meant for your fall/demotion. God is with you in trials and is there to see you through it all. The Lord is our ever present help in times of trouble and need. We are meant to overcome in both trial and temptation situations as it were. **Hebr 12:11; Dan 10:19; I Cor 6:18; Isa 43:1-2**

I Cor 10: 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it [*you escape temptation but you bear trial*].

Mtt 6: 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil [*that comes with trial*]:

Both trial and temptation can be seen as tests being carried out for different purposes by different beings having different end goals in view. The former for your promotion, while the latter for your fall.

Temptation is not God own means of trying your faith, rather it is Satan's own. It is the trying of your flesh and the lusts thereof in order to get your faith to fail. Temptation is not something to be desired to enter into by the saints, but trial is. **Job 2:4-6; Mtt 6:13**

Mtt 26: 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Lk 22: 31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have [*tempt*] you, that he may sift you as wheat: **Vr.32** But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Ps 139: 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

You need to be strong in faith in order to overcome both trial and temptation as it were. **Rom 4:19-22**

I Cor 16: 13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

TRIAL OF FAITH AND BUILDING OF VIRTUES IN THE SAINTS

Tribulation brings about trials, and persecution is full of temptations in the life of the saint. It is through tribulations and persecutions we suffer that our faith is often tested here on earth by God. We are established in the faith and perfected by these things that we go through successfully in Christ Jesus. Tribulation is not trial in itself but is used for the process of trial as the case maybe amongst other things.

Mtt 13: 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; **Vr.21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Also, it is through such tribulations that godly virtues are built in the saints which otherwise would not have developed in them. These are indispensable qualities that anyone that claims to be a Christian is meant to have and imbibe without which they cannot stand in the faith till the end. Virtues like longsuffering, patience, temperance, humility, etc.. Going through tribulation can be a typical example of taking your cross and following Christ. **2 Pet 1:4-11; Lk 9:23**

2 Thess 1: 3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; **Vr.4** So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Jam 1: 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations [*ought to be trials*]; **Vr.3** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **Vr.4** But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

It is actually in our weakness in tribulations, persecutions, infirmities that the power of God in Christ Jesus is made more manifest in our lives unto his glory alone. We continually need grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ daily in order to bear our

cross in the faith till the end. Those that glory in the flesh and depend on the arm of flesh are dismayed and confounded in such situations and seek devilish alternatives or solutions. They fall into many hurtful temptations as a result. **2 Cor 12:9-10**

The saints are comforted and receive consolation from the God of all comforts and consolations in all tribulations that they suffer. And that is the underlying principle that gives rise to the nature of greetings of the apostles in their Epistles to the saints. For example,

2 Cor 1:2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. **Vr.3** Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; **Vr.4** Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. **Vr.5** For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. **Vr.6** And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. **Vr.7** And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. **Vr.8** For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: **Vr.9** But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: **Vr.10** Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

The Elect of God in this world are accounted as sheep to the slaughter and as it were, appointed unto death. They are meant to endure tribulation that many at times serves as trials of faith in their pathway to attaining perfection unto the heavenly kingdom. Tribulation brings about trials which are of God, though in the midst of such trials you will find temptation which is of the Devil, but not vice versa. **Acts 8:32; Job 1:6-19; Hebr 5:8-9**

I Thess 3: 3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. **Vr.4** For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. **Vr.5** For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Rom 8: 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **Vr.36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **Vr.37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

We have thus established the correlation between tribulation and trial. God uses trials experienced during tribulation in order to perfect the just in righteousness and expose the wicked amongst men in the field of the world. How? By their fruits ye shall know them.

Fruits are produced when people go through tribulation which reveals the kind of seed that is at work within them. The seed is found in the heart and mind of men, while the fruits are the deeds that they exhibit with their members. The former is unseen, while the latter is seen.

I Pet 4:7-19 (Vr.12) Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **Vr.13** But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

We are meant to endure or bear trials, while we flee temptations and not the other way round. So, those that teach the doctrine of "Rapture" of the saints from the Great Tribulation that is to come upon the whole world teach to the contrary. This is an error because the Elect are meant to go through tribulation before they enter the kingdom of God at the end. **Mtt 24:21-25**

Acts 14: 22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Jn 17: 15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world [*by Rapture*], but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil [*during the Great Tribulation*].

CONCLUSION

The first man Adam failed in his trial in the Garden of Eden, of which if he had succeeded, he would have commenced the righteous operation of the kingdom of God dominion and reign over the earth from thence. Unfortunately, by his failure he was cast out into a world of temptations dominated by sin. **Gen 3:14-15; Rom 5:12**

The last Adam in the wilderness trial overcame temptation that came with it unto commencing his rescue mission on earth. Jesus Christ needed to pass the test successfully in order to be approved by God to embark on it thereafter, as was supposed to have been the case with Adam in the garden of Eden. **Gen 1:26-28; Gen 3:5,22; Lk 4:13-15**

From the onset, temptation was targeted at the spiritually minded in order to bring such down to carnality. For the carnal mind is enmity to God and it cannot obey nor be subject to the laws of God. It began with Lucifer (a spiritual being) being made to become (carnally minded as) Satan by it. And subsequently Satan became the chief tempter of all other creatures especially Man.

Adam was created spiritual but was made carnal and worldly by reason of falling for the temptation of the Devil. **Mtt 16:23**

That is why God does not tempt a man, but it is Satan that does. God does not set to get you earthly/carnally minded but rather heavenly/spiritually minded instead through Christ Jesus. For to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **Rom 8:6**

Temptation is a calculated attempt to cause the weak flesh to rule over the ready, willing and spirit in man. And temptation is successful when this aberration happens or occurs. In trial, the righteous exercise the working of the Spirit in them over the flesh in order to overcome and come out successful at the end. The Spirit of truth is indispensable in overcoming temptations and trials in this world.

Mtt 26: 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Gal 5: 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. **Vr.17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Rom 8: 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

God does not tempt man with evil, but He tries man with evil. The trial of God is of humbling situations contrived in order to prove a man, to test his reliance on God and obedience to His voice cum commandment, a test of faith with the aim of promoting him at the end. Trials and temptations bring out either humility in you or pride that is in you. **Jam 1:13; Jam 4:6**

Jesus taught us not to resist evil, when going through trials which can be brought about by tribulations, because it is of God. But we are to resist evil that comes by temptation because it is of the Devil. We are to endure tribulation and to go through it with patience, but to overcome temptation instead rather than fall for it. God is to deliver us from such temptatious evils. **Mtt 5:39; Jam 4:7-8**

I Pet 5:5-9 (Vr.6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: **Vr.8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour [*through falling for his temptations*]: **Vr.9** Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. **Vr.10** But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by

Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

How a man handles trials and temptations reveals his true nature at heart and the kind of spirit at work in him. Same with how he handles challenging situations and circumstances that come his way in this world. Favourable and comfortable situations do not bring out the true colour of a man most times, but rather it is unfavourable and inconveniencing circumstances that do.

Sinners tend to rebel, curse, take offence and blaspheme God because of tribulations that befall them, while the saints tend to praise, thank, rejoice and bless God in the midst of tribulations and even persecutions that confront them. The difference is made clear at such times, the one curse and blame God and man, while the other bless, thank and praise God during such difficult times that cometh upon all and sundry in this world without exception. **I Thess 5:18; Rom 8:28; Mtt 13:20-21; Jam 3:8-10; Job 2:4-5,9-10**

The righteous overcome such evil (of tribulation and persecution) with good, while the wicked seek to overcome same evil with evil during such periods. And that is how God uses tribulation to differentiate between the just and the unjust, the righteous and the unrighteous as it were. **Rom 12:19-21; Mtt 5:43-48**

Every man shall undergo trials and temptations in this world in order that the stock that you are made of might be made manifest before God and man as it were.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ avail unto you to overcome till the end unto receiving the gift of God that is eternal life in his kingdom at the end through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEEDBACK

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.