

**THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE**  
*Or, The Forty Weeks of Purpose*  
A Sermon Series Based on the Book by Rick Warren  
Weeks Twenty-Six through Twenty-Eight: Sweet Temptation!  
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, January 16, 2005

**INTRODUCTION:**

Martin Luther: My temptations have been my masters in divinity.

James 1:12

**PROPOSITION:** Temptation can result in three positive outcomes for the believer's growth.

**I. TEMPTATION CAN RESULT IN PROGRESS.**

A. You Can **Comprehend** Temptation. 2 Cor. 2:11; Mark 7:21-23; James 4:1.

B. You Can **Conquer** Temptation.

1. Refuse to Be **Pushed-Around** by Temptation. 1 Cor. 10:13.

2. Recognize Your **Pattern** of Temptation. 1 Peter 5:8.

3. Request God's **Presence** in Temptation. Ps. 50:15.

**II. TEMPTATION CAN RESULT IN PREVAILING. 2. Tim. 2:22.**

A. Refocus Your **Strength** During Temptation. Job 31:1; Ps. 119:37.

B. Reveal Your **Struggle** with Temptation. Ecc. 4:9, 10; James 5:16.

C. Resist **Satan** During Temptation. James 4:7.

1. **Accept** Salvation. Eph. 6:17.

2. **Apply** the Scriptures.

D. Realize Your **Susceptibility** to Temptation. Jer. 17:9; 1 Cor. 10:12.

**III. TEMPTATION CAN RESULT IN PATIENCE. Phil. 1:6.**

A. Consider the **Reason** Growth Takes So Long.

1. We Are **Slow** to Learn. 1 Tim. 4:15.
2. We Have **So Much** to Let Go. Rom. 13:12.
3. We Are **Scared** to Look.
4. We Will **Suffer** a Lot.

B. Consider the **Reward** of Growth Taking So Long.

1. G- **God**: Believe God Is Working in Your Life. Ecc. 3:1.
2. R- **Record**: Keep a Journal of Lessons Learned. Heb. 2:1.
3. O- **Overcome**: Be Patient with God and with Yourself. James 1:4.
4. W- **Win**: Don't Get Discouraged. Hab. 2:3.

## ***APPLICATION:***

### ***Points to Ponder:***

1. Every temptation is an opportunity to do good.
2. There is always a way out.
3. There are no shortcuts to maturity.

### ***Questions to Consider:***

1. What Christlike character quality can I develop by defeating the most common temptation I face?
2. Who could I ask to be a spiritual partner to help me defeat a persistent temptation by paying for me?
3. In what area of my spiritual growth do I need to be more patient and persistent?