

MONDAY: Let's go back to the beginning in the garden of Eden. You might have heard this before but read Genesis 3:1-7. Then, read back in Genesis chapter 2 until you find what God actually said about the tree. What was added to God's word? Why might those first two have been susceptible to the serpent's words? Why did God create the serpent? What value does a serpent bring to the created order? What are the serpent voices calling out to you today? Pray for strength to battle the cunning whispers of those serpents.

TUESDAY: One commentator I read this week draws a distinction between being tempted and being tested. To be tempted is to be enticed to sin (a negative purpose). To be tested is to be brought into a difficult circumstance (for a positive purpose). Consider that thought as you read of Abraham's tempting/testing in Genesis 22:1-19. Is this temptation to murder or a test of Abraham's faithfulness? Does it matter? Why? What testing is happening in your life right now? How is God using that testing to bring good things to your life?

WEDNESDAY: Read Genesis 39 about Joseph's way to deal with temptation. He runs away from it. What is God calling you to 'flee' from? Paul uses the word 'flee' on four separate occasions. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18 & 10:14, 1 Timothy 6:11, 2 Timothy 2:22. In each of these scriptures, we are told to flee. In James 4:7, we are told to resist and that the Devil will flee from us. If the Devil is smart enough to run when tempted, why is it so difficult for us sometimes?

THURSDAY: Jesus offers us a great tool for overcoming temptation or dealing with a challenge to Godly priorities. Read Matthew 16:21-28. In response to Peter's thinking, Jesus says, 'Get behind me Satan.' Why wouldn't a less harsh corrective been appropriate such as "now, listen to me"? Read the interchange prior to this one in Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus has just told Peter that he was the future of the church. The whole Satan thing must have hurt. Is Peter metaphorically like a child running out into the street and Jesus gets his attention with boldness? Is Jesus trying to get your attention about something that is spiritually dangerous for you?

FRIDAY: Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Temptation is a difficult battle. It is as if we are waging war against the Devil. Paul encourages us to use the full 'armor' of God so we might be able to stand firm and not fall to temptation. Are you 'shod' with all seven pieces of armor Paul mentions? Have you developed that prayer life mentioned in verse 18 that keeps you praying at all times? What will be your first thing to work on?