


## **The Battle for the Christian's Thinking, part 1**

- I.** The Father limits temptation, He: (1 Cor. 10:13).
1. Will always be faithful (1 Thes. 5:4; 2 Thes. 3:3; 1 Jn. 1:9).
  2. Will not allow temptation above the individual's ability (Mt. 24:43; Lu. 4:41).
  3. Will always plan a way out for the temptation (Gal. 5:16).
  4. "Temptation" is a solicitation to do evil.
  5. Temptation is preceded by lust—strong desire.
- II.** Either the flesh/sin principle/sin nature/ or the Spirit will dominate thinking in moral issues (Rom. 6:16; cf. Rom. 7:18-flesh; Rom. 7:25-principle; Eph. 2:3-nature).
1. Lusts are in the realm of thinking (Mt. 13:17).
  2. Lusts may be 'good' (Mt. 13:17; Lu. 22:15; Gal. 5:17; Phil 1:23; 1 Thes. 2:17; 1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Pet. 1:12).
  3. Lusts may be 'bad'.
    - 1) From Satan (Jn. 8:44).
    - 2) From the world system (Tit. 2:20; 1 Jn. 2:17).
    - 3) From the flesh/sin nature (Gal. 5:17).
- III.** Lusts, in and of themselves, are not sin, however...!
1. False guilt for uninvited 'bad' thoughts (Jam. 1:8).
  2. The responsibility and results of retaining a frame of mind on 'bad' lusts (Rom. 8:5-13).
- Lust** (*strong desire*)  **Temptation** (*attractive action*)
- IV.** When a lust is considered a viable action, it becomes a temptation.
1. Still in the realm of thinking.
  2. Must be distinguished from trials: tribulations, distresses, persecutions, and sufferings.
  3. Temptation is not a sin (Mt. 4:1-2; Heb. 2:18; 4:15).
  4. Temptation is never from God (Jam. 1:13).
    - 1) Proves not 'tempted' to do something good.
    - 2) Proves temptation is a solicitation to evil.