

You know, temptation is a funny thing. Some things seem almost irresistible to us. For instance, if I see some instrument at work I get an incredible urge to flip a switch or turn a control just to see if anything will happen. And I guess that everyone at some time or another has challenged a Wet Paint sign. We just have to touch it; not so much to see if it is wet or dry, but to find out just how wet it is. Our temptation to sin is sometimes just like that.

As Calvin Miller says, touching wet walls is the 'Adam' in us. Adam had only one 'wet paint' sign in all of Eden, but it was as if nothing else existed. Adam and Eve must have discussed at length what could be so wrong with such nice looking fruit. Only one rule, but they had to test it to find out what would happen.

Many things in the world hold a strong, almost irresistible temptation for us, but they are certainly not good for us. God has told us that we must turn our back on worldly things. We read in 1 John 2.15, 'Do not love the world or the things in the world'. This can be very hard to do; I am reminded of Lot's wife, who when she was told not to look back on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, was turned into a pillar of salt. We might consider that our spiritual momentum disappears in a similar way when we refuse to give up the world.

We read in James 4.7, 'Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.' Christ tells us in Jn 16.33 that he has overcome the world, and John tells us in 1 Jn 5.5 that we can, too, through Christ. But why is it so hard to resist the devil; but so easy to resist God? Why isn't the goodness of God irresistible? Why do we not gasp for spiritual breath the same way we do our physical breath when we are in need? It seems that we get a little bit of 'religion', and it is like we are vaccinated: we are now resistant to the attraction of God. We do not feel the need to become deeply committed or involved.

We read in Phil 2.10-11, 'at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord'. to the glory of God the Father'. What this means is that in the final days, God will indeed be irresistible. No one will be able to rebel against him then. We must submit now to him, or God will resist us, as we read in 1 Pet 5.5, 'God resisteth the proud but gives grace to the humble'. There may be someone here tonight that may be resisting God; if you are we beg you to release yourself and come to him as we stand and sing this song...