

# Slippery Surface Ahead





“You cannot stop the  
birds from flying over  
your head  
but you can keep  
them from building a  
nest in your hair”

**Martin Luther**

# ***Recognise Temptation Doesn't Come From God***

<sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

When we reach out to God, we are lifting our souls up to be nurtured and healed. A soul centred in God always knows it has a heavenly Father who will hold its pain, its fear, its anxiety. This is spiritual life: to place the soul each moment in the presence and care of God. “My soul cleaves to you, your right hand upholds me.”

# ***Realise where temptation leads***

<sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

There are two main enemies that lead to a soul disconnected from its center. One is sin. Sin cannot coexist with a soul centred on God. If I choose to live in bitterness, or to indulge lust, or to deceive my wife, I am choosing to keep God out of my thoughts. Conversely when I center my soul on God, I am less likely to sin. I'm not likely to speed if I see a police car; I'm not likely to play video games at work if my boss is watching; I'm not likely to sin while God is present to my mind.

It's not just that God is always watching and always knows the condition of our hearts; it's our knowing that he is there.

# ***Remember that you were created to be different***

<sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

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***Realise - Where Temptation Leads***

***Remember - That You Were Created to be Different***