

Temptation and Grace

Consider each of the following quotations and the questions that follow them. On a separate sheet of paper, write a three- or four-sentence response to each question.

1. "No one experiencing temptation should say, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one. Rather, each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire" (James 1:13–14).

Why does James say that our desires are a source of temptation?

2. "No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength, but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

How do you resist temptation and face difficulties in life?

3. "Grace is *favor*, the *free and undeserved help* that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life"¹ (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1996).

How do you experience grace, that is, the gift of God's loving and active presence in your life?

Endnote

1. Cf. *John* 1:12–18, 17:3; *Romans* 8:14–17; *2 Peter* 1:3–4.

The scriptural quotations are from the *New American Bible with Revised New Testament and Revised Psalms*. Copyright © 1991, 1986, and 1970 by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. Used by the permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the *New American Bible* may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

The quotation marked *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is from the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for use in the United States of America, second edition, number 1996. Copyright © 1994 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV). English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica* copyright © 1997 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—LEV.

