**Reason for the Trails**

**#1 Temptations offers a test of Love towards God!**

* John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.
* John 14:23 “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

**Asking a question about what is God telling me to do here?**

**What is Love?**

1. Love is measured by your sacrifice not your words!
2. Little Sacrifice little love?

**What is keeping God’s Commands?**

1. Keeping commands is measured by your understanding of each command!
2. We are learning God’s commands all the time and learning how to do it based on our understanding!

**Example: God says to let our light shine to the world!**

* **Matthew 5:14 “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.**

- We need to understand more about this command!

**What is light?**

**Who is the world?**

**How to I shine?**

**What is the goal of shinning?**

**And Etc.**

**Paul said that only with God’s help this can happen!**

* 1 Corinthians 12:3 “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

**Moses said God will help us to understand what He means so we can understand.**

* Number 16:30 “ But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

**#2 Temptations offer an opportunity for obedience!**

**Forward to God’s Will**

* Joshua 24:24 “And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

**God is leading us to Victory**

* 1 Samuel 12:14-15 “ If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then
* shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God: But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.

**Against all Critics!**

* Job 2:9 “Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

**Against all Potential Danger!**

* Act 5:29 “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

**#3 Temptations offer an opportunity for maturity!**

**Maturity is a sign of growth**

* James 1:3-4 “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

**Question to ask?**

* How do let patience work in us?
* How is faith growing in trails and temptations?
* What is the perfect work?
* What is entire and wanting nothing?

**#4 Temptations offer an opportunity for rewards!**

**God will always reward our faith**

* James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

**Question to ask?**

* How do I endure temptation?
* What is tried?
* What is the Crown of Life?

**Rewards come to those that finish!**

* 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

**Rewards come to the temperate!**

* 1 Corinthians 9:25 “ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

**Rewards come to the Achievers**

* Philippians 3:14 “ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.