

A Word Study by Pastor Melissa Scott, Ph.D.

Temptation / *peirasmos*

	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Devil	4:1 to be <b>tempted</b> (πειρασθῆναι) <b>verb</b> by the devil	1:13 <b>tempted</b> (πειραζομενος) <b>verb</b> of Satan	4:2 <b>tempted</b> (πειραζομενος) <b>verb</b> of the devil
	4:3 and when the <b>tempter</b> (πειράζων) <b>verb</b>		4:12 Thou shalt not <b>tempt</b> (ἐκπειρασεις) <b>verb</b>
	4:7 thou shalt not <b>tempt</b> (ἐκπειράσεις) <b>verb</b>		4:13 all the <b>temptation</b> (πειρασμον) <b>noun</b>
	6:13 lead us not into <b>temptation</b> (πειρασμόν) <b>noun</b>		11:4 lead us not into <b>temptation</b> (πειρασμον) <b>noun</b>
World	16:1 Pharisees and Sadducees <b>tempting</b> (πειράζοντες) <b>verb</b> -Jesus to show a sign from heaven -No sign but the sign of Jonah -Beware of the leaven	8:11 Pharisees <b>tempting</b> (πειραζοντες) <b>verb</b> -Jesus for a sign from heaven -No sign given to this generation -Beware of the leaven	11:16 Others <b>tempting</b> (πειραζοντες) <b>verb</b> -Jesus for a sign from heaven -No sign given (cont'd through 11:29, 30, 12:2, 12:54) -Beware of the leaven
	19:3 Pharisees <b>tempting</b> (πειράζοντες) <b>verb</b> Him regarding divorce	10:2 Pharisees <b>tempting</b> (πειραζοντες) <b>verb</b> Him regarding divorce	
	22:18 Pharisees/Herodians <b>tempt</b> (πειράζετε) <b>verb</b> tribute money (penny)	12:15 Pharisees/Herodians <b>tempt</b> (πειραζετε) <b>verb</b> tribute money (penny)	20:23 Chief priests/Scribes sent forth spies <b>tempt</b> is not in the best Greek mss tribute - penny
	22:35 Pharisees/Sadducees Lawyer <b>tempting</b> (πειράζων) <b>verb</b> great commandment		
Flesh	26:41 Watch and pray that ye enter not into <b>temptation</b> (πειρασμόν) <b>noun</b> Spirit willing/flesh weak	14:38 Watch ye and pray lest ye enter into <b>temptation</b> (πειρασμον) <b>noun</b> Spirit ready/flesh weak	22:40 Pray that ye enter not into <b>temptation</b> (πειρασμον) <b>noun</b>
			22:46 Pray lest ye enter into <b>temptation</b> (πειρασμον) <b>noun</b>

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### Temptation / *peirasmos*

- Strong's #G3984** *pěira* = **πειρα**– through the idea of piercing – a test, i.e. attempt, experience, trial, from the base of **Strong's #G4008**, **πέραν**– to pierce through, across beyond
- #G3985** *pěirazō* = **πειράζω**– to test, i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, entice
- #G3986** *pěirasmos* = **πειρασμος** – putting the proof by experiment, solicitation – adversity, try–temptation

**Etymology:** (tempt – test – try) surviving in “tempt” as: God, fate, fortune, the sea etc.

**Old French:** – *tenter*      **Latin:** *temptāre* ← handle, feel, try the strength of, test  
'tempt' + 'ation' – suffix ending = act of, or process of

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- Section A** 1. **πειράω**, comes from the root **περ**– and is related to **περάω**, **πέρας**  
**Latin** – *peritus, experiri*, etc.      **German** – *fahren*, meaning 'to attempt,' 'to strive'
2. **πειράζω** → to make an attempt, to test someone
- Footnote #3:* In most cases **πειράζειν** denotes hostile intent – an element that is not present in the other word “prove” → *dokimazo – dokimazein*

**LXX** Most times *peirasmos* = Heb. Equiv. *nāsāh* = **נָסָה** (one time rel. *massah*)  
Exodus 17:7 c.f. Deuteronomy 6:16, 9:22, 29:3 / Ψ95:8      (Ψ=Psalm)  
Also apoc. / Sir 44:20      1 Maccabees 2:52

*Peirazo* therefore is: to test intentionally and with the purpose of discovering what good or evil, what power or weakness is in a person or thing. The fact that most breakdown under this 'test' has given *peirazo* a sense of – putting someone or thing to the test that a piercing or breakdown may occur under it – is used by Satan for destruction; is used by God to discover what 'good or evil' what 'faith or disfaith' may or may not be present.

**John 6:6** – “And this he said to prove (**πειράζων**) him: for he himself knew what he would do.”

Another example is **Revelation 2:2** – “...and thou hast tried (**ἐπείρασας**) them (Church at Ephesus) which say they are apostles; and are not.”

**2 Corinthians 13:5** “Examine (**πειράζεστε**) yourselves whether ye be in the faith...”

**Hebrews 11:17** Abraham being put to the test by God, “By faith Abraham, when he was tried (**πειραζόμενος**), offered up Isaac....”

**Acts 5:9** (With regard to Ananias and Sapphira), “then Peter said unto her [Sapphira], How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt (**πειράσαι**) the Spirit of the Lord?”

Also: **Acts 9:26** (Attempted), **Acts 15:10** (tempt), **Acts 16:7** (attempted), **Acts 20:19** (temptations), **Acts 24:6** (Hath gone about), **1 Corinthians 7:5** (tempt), **1 Corinthians 10:9** – 2x's (tempt, tempted), **1 Corinthians 10:13** 3x's (temptation, to be tempted, temptation)