

Hole in the Sidewalk

As human beings, temptations can come at us in a variety of forms and from many directions. A temptation is defined as “a desire or craving for something, especially something considered wrong.” Yielding to temptations can inflict pain, produce poor health, ruin reputations and even prove fatal. How do we exercise good judgment and resist the urges created? Portia Nelson in her *Autobiography in Five Short Chapters* offers advice:

Chapter 1: I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out.

Chapter 2: I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again ... but it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3: I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it there. I still fall in ... My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

Chapter 4: I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

Chapter 5: I walk down another street.

Satan has his schemes and tactics, and we need to devise ours to defend ourselves from his temptations. If you know there is a temptation down one street, take a different one!

Clothing yourself in the armor of God is step one in devising strategies to resist the devil's schemes.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:11).

– Beecher Hunter