

GETTING READY TO WITHSTAND TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS

James 1:19-27

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Overcoming temptations and trials doesn't "just happen..." One has to be prepared to overcome temptations and trials when they come. A wonderful fact for Christians is that temptations and trials CAN be conquered, overcome. Not every Christian will, however, overcome and be victorious when temptations and trials come. Only by following God's plans will one be successful when facing temptations and trials.

I. ONE HAS TO BE QUICK TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

1. James 1:19-21
 - The greatest temptation in the world is to walk through life doing whatever one wants and pleases, ignoring, neglecting, and rejecting the Word of God. The result is death, but God wants to save.
2. One must be slow to speak and willing to be still and listen to God's Word.
3. One must be slow to wrath and anger.
 - There must not be a reaction against what God's Word says.
 - There must not be anger and action against others.
 - An angry person cannot focus thoughts upon God's Word nor is able to do what God says.
4. One must put aside all filthiness.
 - "Filthiness" is like ear wax in the ear which blocks the hearing.
 - To put aside filthiness is compared to taking off a piece of clothing and casting it aside.
5. One must put aside any and all remnant of naughtiness, wickedness and evil.
 - There is always a trace of something sinful in one's life.
 - Complete cleanliness is necessary for success.
6. One must receive the Word of God as a child.
 - One must sit still and listen with an open heart to what God has to say.
 - "Engrafted" means to implant, then to grow, which happens when God's Word is received.
 - Matthew 13:23; Acts 2:41; 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

II. ONE MUST DO THE WORD OF GOD

1. James 1:22-25
2. One cannot hear and know the Word of God and then go out and live as he/she wants and still be right with God.
 - God accepts us when we confess and repent, not when we hear and know His Word.
3. One who hears and knows God's Word BUT does not DO God's Word soon forgets what God's Word has said to him/her.
 - Failing to do what God's Word has pointed out for one to do or not do leaves one out of God's will.
 - The world is full of distractions, therefore one needs to DO God's Word immediately upon learning what God's Word instructs.

4. One who hears and DOES God's Word will be freed from the enslavements of the world and Satan.
 - Freedom and victory come from DOING the Word of God.
 - Joy, love and peace are benefits of DOING the Word of God.
 - Matthew 7:21; 12:50; Luke 6:46-49; John 13:17; Romans 2:13; 1 John 2:17; Revelation 22:14

III. ONE MUST BRIDLE AND CONTROL HIS/HER TONGUE

1. James 1:26
2. The tongue reveals the truth about one's profession of faith in Jesus.
 - An uncontrolled tongue reveals that a person's religion is false, empty.
 - An uncontrolled tongue does not please God and that person is out of God's will.
3. Ephesians 4:31; Titus 3:1-2; James 3:6; 4:11; 1 Peter 2:1; 3:10; Psalm 34:13; Proverbs 13:3; 21:33

IV. ONE MUST PRACTICE TRUE (PURE) RELIGION

1. James 1:27
2. Practicing one's beliefs include visiting the fatherless, widows, orphaned, shut-ins, newcomers, the lost, bedridden, lonely, grieved and the weak in faith.
 - Visit all who have a need which the Church family can minister to.
 - Matthew 10:12-14; 20:28; 25:34-36; Mark 16:15; Luke 9:4-5; Galatians 6:2
3. One must keep him/herself uncorrupted from the falseness of the world and Satan.
 - Lust of the eyes, the flesh and pride are all of the world.
 - Matthew 5:8; John 15:19; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 6:17o-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 John 1:15

CONCLUSION:

1. Hearing and knowing the Word of God are not all that pleases God or is required by Him.
2. Many are fooling themselves into thinking that their lives are pleasing to God while in reality they are far from pleasing God.
3. What the tongue says or does not say is a true and reliable indicator of the condition of the heart.
4. Every believer has the obligation to VISIT!