

RESPOND PROPERLY TO OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS

James 5:12-20

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everybody responds to temptations and trials differently but it is possible to be victorious and not yield when temptations and trials do come - and they will. How in the world can a person survive in the midst of all the difficulties that come in life? Being patient and hanging on is one approach to handling life's difficulties and another one is to respond properly.

I. DO NOT CURSE OR SWEAR

1. James 5:12
2. There are several types of swearing:
 - There is swearing by oaths. No oath should be necessary for a truthful and honest person.
 - There is the habitual, frivolous swearing: The kind of words that flow from a bitter and foul person.
 - There is hypocritical swearing: Blessing God with one breath and then cursing people in the next.
 - There is silent, universal swearing: Secretly cursing others within the heart.
 - There is evasive swearing: Not using God's name in vain, but substituting other words.
 - There is ego swearing: Swearing to boost one's ego, to seem important around others.
3. A believer is not to swear by any oath, not by heaven or earth or by any other oath.
 - Not by heaven - it is God's throne. To do so is to curse God.
 - Not by earth, for the earth is God's footstool. To do so is to curse God.
 - Not by any other oath, for all power belongs to God. People do not have the power to keep oaths.
 - Matthew 5:34; Romans 3:14; Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12; Psalm 10:7; 59:12; 109:17
4. A person is to let his/her word be so true that it is his/her guarantee - all that is needed.
 - Matthew 5:37
 - Swearing and cursing do not make a matter more believable, it really makes things more suspicious.
 - Matthew 5:13, 37; Colossians 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 2:7-8

II. IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, PRAISE GOD OR PRAY

1. James 5:13
2. Temptations and trials afflict everyone on earth and believers are to combat them by prayer seeking God's presence and guidance.
 - 1 Chronicles 16:11; Matthew 7:7; 26:41; Luke 18:1; John 16:24; Ephesians 6:18
3. When the believer is free from trials and temptations, he/she is to be cheerful in the Lord, showing the world that there is joy in the Lord.
 - Luke 10:20; Romans 15:9; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9

III. WHEN SICK, CALL FOR OTHERS TO PRAY

1. James 5:14-15
2. Call for the Church leaders to pray for those who are sick:

- Those who are shut in and cannot go to others for prayer.
 - The sick are to be trusting God to bring healing, believing that God hears the prayers of the righteous.
 - Anoint him/her with oil in the name of the Lord.
 - The prayers of faith will cause the Lord to forgive and heal the sick.
3. What should the church do when one of its members is bedridden with sickness?
 - Gather around the sick person and pray.
 - Gather around the sick person and anoint him/her with oil.
 - Does this work?
 - Matthew 7:21; 17:20; 21:22; Mark 9:23; Luke 1:9-10; John 15:7; Ephesians 6:18
 4. Why anoint with oil?
 - Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, of His presence. A reminder of His power and presence.
 - Oil is a symbol of God's care, comfort, and joy, of His mercy to us. The oil of gladness.
 - A reminder of God's love and desire to take care of us.

IV. WHEN SIN OCCURS, QUICKLY CONFESS IT AND PRAY FOR OTHERS AS WELL

1. James 5:16-18
2. The believer is to go to others with his/her sin when:
 - the sin has been a wrong or injustice done against someone else.
 - someone has been lied to or misled.
 - it offended someone or caused someone to stumble and also sin.
 - restitution should be made.
 - a crime was committed publicly and public forgiveness is required.
 - a trusted minister or christian counselor may be able to help in seeking repentance and restoration before God and man.
3. Confessing one's sins to others under certain conditions enables that person to then pray for someone else.
 - Elijah is an excellent example of the power of prayer. A person just like us, yet God heard his prayers.
 - 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1; Luke 4:25
 - Prayer, earnest and fervent prayer is effective, it works. God hears and answers prayer.
 - Matthew 7:7-8; John 16:24; Matthew 17:21; 21:22; John 15:7; Acts 16:25

V. WHEN ONE BACKSLIDES, GO TO THAT PERSON

1. James 5:19-20
2. Believers can stray from the truth and walk in the way of error.
 - Other believers are to go to them and seek to bring them back.
 - What a difference the church would be if we would actually do this.
3. When a backslidden believer is turned back to walking with the Lord in righteousness, his/her sins have been forgiven and fellowship with the Lord has been restored.
4. Bringing those back who have backslidden, strengthens one against temptations and trials. He/she learns about faith, faults and the needs of believers.
 - Psalm 32:1; Matthew 18:3; Acts 3:19; 8:22; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 55:7; Ezekiel 18:21

CONCLUSION:

1. To get through trials and temptations, believers must guard their language and be in the attitude of praise and prayer at all times, depending upon the circumstances.
2. Sometimes one must acknowledge his/her sin/s to someone else.
3. Helping other believers in their time of need in turn helps one become stronger and more caring.