

RESISTING TEMPTATION IS DIFFICULT TO DO

James 4:7-10

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everybody has their strengths and everybody has their weaknesses and everybody sins. Different sins perhaps, but nevertheless everybody is tempted to sin. What would it be like to live in a world where there was no sin? How does one handle the countless temptations that come his/her way every day? God has a way.

I. PUT YOURSELF UNDER GOD'S CARE AND POWER AND RESIST WHAT SATAN BRINGS

1. When temptations comes, submit one's self to God and His grace and power can overcome that temptation.
 - Focus the mind upon God and His Word the instant temptation appears.
 - Turn away from that temptation, push it out of the mind and think about God and His Word.
 - Resist that temptation and Satan by focusing the mind upon God and God's Word.
 - Satan will leave and the temptation will be overcome.
 - One must do both: surrender to God and resist the devil and that temptation.
2. Never pause to listen or even consider the temptation, no matter how enticing it may appear to be.
 - If already addicted to some sin, the believer has God's power and wisdom to learn how to resist that long time sin and eventually that sin and Satan will become farther and farther away.
 - No believer will ever be completely free of temptation but he/she can be more victorious more often by learning how to do things God's way.
 - Ephesians 4:26-27; 6:13; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 6:10; Luke 1:38; Romans 6:13

II. GET CLOSE TO GOD AND REPENT

1. Believers can approach God and talk and share with Him at any time, at anyplace.
 - Reading God's Word helps when temptation comes, quoting from memory if a Bible is not handy.
 - Praying, asking God for strength and power, mercy and grace, focusing upon God's strength, not so much upon the temptation.
 - Keep the mind off the temptation and upon God.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16
 - One must do a couple of things before being able to get near to God:
 - One must "clean" his/her sinful hands for every person is a sinner.
 - God will not respond to a person unless that person has repented of his/her sins.
 - Isaiah 1:16; Acts 22:16; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Timothy 2:21; 1 John 3:3
2. One must get his heart right with God and stop going back and forth between God and temptation.
 - Divided interests, loyalties between God and the world will not allow one into God's presence.
 - No one can draw near to God unless he/she has "clean" hands and a pure heart that is totally committed to the Lord.
 - God loves the person who daily walks in open fellowship and communion with Him, who keeps his/her hands and heart clean and pure, confessing sins regularly.
 - Matthew 5:8; Luke 9:62; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 10:21; 1 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 10:11; James 1:8; 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22

III. TAKE THE TEMPTATION SERIOUSLY (James 4:9)

1. When temptation comes it is not the time to:
 - laugh
 - joke around

- be complacent
 - be light hearted
 - unconcerned
 - to be at ease
2. Temptation is a form of affliction and needs to be disciplined, it is a time for hard warfare, a battle.
 - When temptation comes one must immediately focus on getting near God, being serious and asking God for strength and deliverance.
 - As soon as temptation comes, drop whatever one is doing and focus the mind and heart upon God and draw near to Him.
 - Get serious
 - Ask God
 - Beg God
 - Temptation is not something that doesn't matter for Satan is behind the temptation and his intent is to lead the believer away from going to God.

IV. ONE NEEDS TO HUMBLE HIM/HERSELF BEFORE GOD

1. God sees every believer at all times, even when temptation comes to the believer.
 - God wants to see the believer drawing near to Him asking for help and deliverance, not laughing at the temptation.
 - God wants to see the believer humbly coming into His presence, calling upon Him and depending upon Him for strength and wisdom to overcome the temptation, not one ignoring His Word and trying to handle the temptation in his/her own strength.
 - God wants to see the believer turning his/her thoughts to God and remembering God's Word with thoughts of "What would Jesus do? How would Jesus handle this?"etc. Not the believer giving thought to how nice it would be to yield to that temptation, how much fun it might be, etc.
2. When a person is tempted and humbles him/herself in God sight, God will indeed lift that person up, meet his/her need, give whatever is needed and deliver him/her from the temptation.
 - Only when a person realizes just how little he/she can actually handle the things in life especially all the temptations that come and that God is the only solution, answer, then God will be able to help.

- Luke 14:11; James 4:6; Romans 12:3; Philippians 2:4-5; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5

CONCLUSION:

1. Temptations come to every person.
2. Satan is behind the temptations.
3. Temptations will draw a person away from God.
4. Temptations appeal to the desires of people.
5. Not every temptation can/will be overcome by a person's own will power.
6. Believers have a source of power and wisdom that can enable them to overcome all temptations.
7. God has guidelines for believers to meet if they want His help.
8. Believers need to know God's Word, read God's Word, pray daily, confess sins daily, depend upon God for all things to live a successful Christian life.
9. How often do YOU go to God for help with temptation?

