

TURNING TEMPTATIONS INTO VICTORIES

1 Corinthians 10:12-14

Introductions: Would you buy a lottery ticket if you knew for sure that you would win? Why? As a Christian, expect temptations. Satan wants you to live a life of sin so you are useless in your Christian life. Overcoming temptations is something believer must learn how to accomplish.

I. SOME METHODS WE USE TO DEAL WITH TEMPTATION

1. **Some simply give in to it.** "If it feels good, do it. If it seems natural, do it, it must be right."
Self-gratification is the way of life.
2. **Some fight temptation with their own strength.** In doing so they almost always fail.
 - Man cannot overcome his own evil nature.
 - One may hate what he/she is doing, but has no power to stop him/herself.
3. **Some overcome temptation through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - It is no "dream." It can happen to YOU! It is how God designed it.

II. THE MATTER OF TEMPTATION

1. All of us are subject to temptation from the most "righteous" to the lowest criminal.
 - Jesus - Peter - David, etc. Everyone
 - Being saved does not make one immune.
 - Being tempted is not in itself a sin and each of us face temptations daily.
2. Pride, materialism, dishonesty, lust, greed, sexual immorality, etc.
 - Anyone who says that he/she cannot fall, then that person is headed for big trouble.
3. "If God really loves us, why doesn't He do away with Satan and stop temptation?"
 - Without opposition, there can be no victory.
 - God hasn't called us to a life of ease, but a life of victory in Jesus Christ.
 - There is such a thing as a "default" victory, however, and that is when the opposition doesn't show up, but Satan is not likely to not show up.

III. THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION

1. ***"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man."***
 - Your temptation is not unique. Everyone has the same ones from the same source.
2. **The Bible calls the "world" a system of evil** and it is a source of temptation:
 - ***"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."***
 - It is possible for Christians to become so much a part of this world that they don't stand out for God.
 - Christians are of a different "mold." They don't belong to this world anymore.
 - Don't accept the world's argument that you must conform to it's standards to be right, accepted, beautiful, cool, etc. Christians are to "come out of the world."
3. **Another source of temptation is the flesh.** Our body has the inclination to do evil.
 - Inherited from Adam, it is called the "old sin nature."
 - Satan doesn't MAKE us do anything. He simply tempts us toward sin.
 - We participate in sin all our own.

4. The third source of temptation is the devil himself.

- He is a real being, but uses our own natural desires to get us into sin.
- He is constantly looking for ways to defeat us, such as: suggestions, circumstances, anything to make it easy for us to sin.

IV. THE SEAT OF TEMPTATION

1. The Christian has three parts to his/her nature:
 - The Spirit, the Soul, and the Body.
 - Temptation comes in one or more of these areas.
2. The world tempts in the area of the soul: (mind, emotions).
 - The ego, self, the person who lives inside the body.
 - Ego trips, the worldly person, the desire to be somebody, to have more, to do more.
3. The flesh tempts in the area of the body: (comfort, satisfaction).
 - Lust, laziness, over-indulgence, sexual immorality.
 - David was tempted in the flesh more than once and yielded each time.
4. The devil tempts the spirit: (only the Christian has a Spirit).
 - Self-consciousness - one's sense of God-consciousness
 - It is through the spirit that a Christian connects with God.
 - Satan wants to cut the Christian off from God. (Doubts, don't need God for this, etc.)

CONCLUSION:

1. To overcome temptations of the flesh, God says **RUN**..flee immorality.
 - Joseph ran when tempted by Potiphar's wife.
 - Flight is the key to fleshly temptations.
2. To over come the world, one needs **FAITH**.
 - If we love the world, we aren't loving God.
 - Love God more and the world's temptations will be defeated.
3. To overcome the devil, **FIGHT**. *"...resist the devil and he will flee from you."*
 - Satan isn't going to leave the Christian alone, bight in the power of the Lord.
 - Human strength is nothing to Satan, but the blood of Christ defeats him.
 - *"Satan, I bring the blood against you. I resist you in the name of the Almighty. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and you're trespassing on His property. Be Gone!"*
 - Bring the Word of God against him. Hold up your commitment to Christ.
 - Satan doesn't want the Christian to know what the power of the blood and the Word of God can do to him.
4. **FLIGHT, FIGHT, FAITH**. Flight from fleshly temptations. Fight against Satan. Faith against worldliness. YOU can triumph over your temptations.