

Helping a New Christian With Victory Over Temptation

Training Objective: For the Christian to *recognize* Temptation, *understand* where it comes from, and give them tools to use to help them have *Victory* over Temptation.

I. What

Temptation as it relates to this study is an enticement toward sin leading to a deliberate act of evil against God or one's neighbor. *"But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."* (James 1:14 ESV)

Victory over Temptation for the Christian is to trust that God will provide a way of escape and the ability to recognize, and take that way of escape. *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV)

II. Why

- A. The temptation to covet leads a person to *ruin* and *destruction*, they will be led into *all kinds of evil* (1 Tim 6:9,10)
- B. Temptation *does not* come from God (James 1:13). Temptation *does* come from Satan (1 Ch 21:1; Matt 4:1; Joh 13:2; 1 Th 3:5).
- C. Others will try to *entice* us to do evil (Pr 1:10; 7:6; 16:29; 2 Pet 2:14).
- D. Temptation may come in the form of worldly glory (Nu 22:17; Dan 4:30; 5:2; Mt 4:8).
- E. Temptation may be strengthened through the *perversion* and *twisting* of God's word (Gen 3:1;
- F. Temptation often arises through poverty (Pr 30:9; Mt 4:2,3), it also arises through Prosperity (Pr 30:9; Mt 4:8).
- G. If temptation is resisted the devil will *renew* his efforts (Lu 4:13 see 22:53).
- H. Temptation has strength through the *weakness of the flesh* (Mt 26:41; Jas 1:14).
- I. We must keep on guard because the devil seeks to *devour* (1 Pet 5:8).

III. How

- A. For the Christian to understand that they need the power of Christ to do all things will be helpful in having Victory over Temptation (Php 4:13).
- B. It is important to point out that abiding in Christ is also important when we are faced with temptation we gain strength from being near to the Lord (Joh 15:1-11).
 - a. Drawing near to God gives us the strength to resist the Devil, we should not try to resist on our own. (Jas 4:7)
- C. Donning the full armor of God will give the Christian the protection that they need (Eph 6:10-20)
 - a. Each part of the spiritual armor tells us what believers must have if they are to be protected against Satan:
 - i. *Truth*—Satan is a liar, but the Christian who knows the truth will not be deceived.
 - ii. *Righteousness*—This means the consistent daily walk of the Christian. Satan is the accuser (Rev. 12:10), but the believer who walks in the light will give Satan no opportunity to attack. We stand in the imputed righteousness of Christ, and we walk in the imparted righteousness of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. *Peace*—Satan is a divider and a destroyer. When the believer walks in the way of peace, the Gospel way, then Satan cannot reach him. The Christian's feet should be clean (John 13), beautiful (Rom. 10:15), and shod with the Gospel. Christians who are ready to witness for Christ have an easier time defeating the evil one.
 - iv. *Faith*—Satan is the source of unbelief and doubt. "Has God indeed said?" is his favorite question (Gen. 3:1). Faith is what overcomes every foe (1 John 5:4). As believers use the shield of faith, the fiery darts of unbelief and doubt are kept away.
 - v. *Salvation*—This verse (17) probably refers to our ultimate salvation when Christ returns (see 1 Thes. 5:8). The believer whose mind is fixed on Christ's imminent coming will not fall into Satan's traps. The blessed hope must be like a helmet to protect the mind. Satan would love to have us believe that Christ is not coming back, or that He may not come back today. Read Matt. 24:45–51 to see what happens to the person who takes off the helmet of salvation.
 - vi. These pieces of armor are for the believer's protection; the sword of the Spirit and prayer are weapons for attacking Satan's strongholds and defeating him. The Christian must fight spiritual enemies with

spiritual weapons (2 Cor. 10:4), and the Word of God is the only sword we need. God's sword has life and power (Heb. 4:12) and never grows dull. Christians conquer, as they understand God's Word, memorize it, and obey it.

- vii. Armor and weapons are not sufficient to win a battle; there must be energy to do the job. Our energy comes from prayer. We use the sword of the Spirit, and we pray in the Spirit: the Holy Spirit empowers us to win the battle. The Word of God and prayer are the two resources God has given the church to overcome the enemy and gain territory for God's glory.
 - 1. Christian soldiers must pray with their eyes open. "Watch and pray" is God's secret for overcoming the world (Mark 13:33), the flesh (Mark 14:38), and the devil (Eph. 6:18). We should also "watch and pray" for opportunities to serve Christ (Col. 4:2-3).
 - 2. We should not only pray for ourselves, but we should also pray for our fellow soldiers. Paul was never too proud to ask for prayer.

D. Not only can we rely on Christ's power to resist temptation but we can take comfort in knowing that he was tempted and resisted. He knows what we are going through (Heb 4:15)

a. Christ:

- i. Endured temptation, from the devil (Mr 1:13).
- ii. Endured temptation, from the wicked (Mt 16:1; 22:18; Lu 10:25).
- iii. Resisted temptation by the word of God (Mt 4:4,7,10).
- iv. Overcame temptation (Mt 4:11).
- v. Sympathizes with those under temptation (Heb 4:15).
- vi. Is able to help those under temptation (Heb 2:18).
- vii. Intercedes for His people under temptation (Lu 22:31,32; Joh 17:15).

E. God will not allow Christians to be tempted beyond what we can bear, and He make a way of escape from temptation (1Co 10:13).

F. Christians should:

- a. Resist temptation, in faith (Eph 6:16; 1Pe 5:9).
- b. Watch against temptation (Mt 26:41; 1Pe 5:8).
- c. Pray to be kept from temptation (Mt 6:13; 26:41).
- d. Not occasion temptation, to others (Ro 14:13).
- e. Restore those overcome by temptation (Ga 6:1).
- f. Avoid the way of temptation (Pr 4:14,15).

IV. Resources

Every Man's Battle (Water Book)

Every Woman's Battle (Water Book)

The Practice of the Presence of God (Whitaker House)