

Key Text: Temptation

Overcomer: a person or one who succeeds in dealing with or gaining control of some problem or difficulty

Temptation: an enticement to sin, whether arising from internal desires or from the outward circumstances

Whatever you are tempted with is a counterfeit of God's best for you that not only has no value but will cost you.

****Points to remember****

God does not tempt us

James 1:13

"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone"

Being tempted is not a sin.

1. Temptation from Without

Matthew 4:1-11

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."

Luke 4:13

"When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time."

- Other Examples of Temptation from Without
- 2 Samuel 11 - David & Bathsheba
- Acts 5 - Ananias & Sapphira

2. Temptation from Within

James 1:13-18

“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

3. Overcoming Temptation

a. Remember Who You Are

Romans 8:37

“we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

b. Remember Where We Are

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

“Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.”

c. Remember the Word

Psalms 119:11

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against You”

Ephesians 4:29

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Psalms 141:3

3 Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

1 John 4:4

Greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world.

Luke 1:37

“For no word from God will ever fail.”

James 1:20

human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

1 Timothy 4:7- 8

“to train ourselves to be godly.”

d. Remember to Dress for Battle

Romans 13:13-14

“... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.”

Ephesians 6:10-17

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

e. Remember to Watch & Pray

Matt 26:41

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

1 Peter 5:8

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

f. Remember your Limits

2 Timothy 2:22

“Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Genesis 39

Joseph

g. Remember your Team

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?”

12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Heb 3:12-14

12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.