

Let Us Overcome Temptation As Jesus Overcame Temptation

1Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able , but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

What is temptation?

- It means to test, to prove.
- It comes from one's own lust (Jas.1:14)
- In the Scriptures it ordinarily refers to the testing of one's willingness to follow what's right;
- To prove one's confidence in and conviction of the truth.

When the devil tempts us it most often involves:

- Deception – Eve (Genesis 3:1-6) – “You shall be as God.”(3:5)
- Enticement – The serpent caused her to view the fruit with “delight.” (3:6)

The ways in which we are tempted:

1John 2:15-17

- Lust of the eyes – temptation through what we see – movies, books, TV, Internet
- Lust of the flesh – temptation through what we want to physically and personally engage in – drinking, indulging in physical pleasures.
- Pride of life – too much emphasis on things of this world – overly ambitious, wanting to be something worldly rather than wanting to be a Christian.

Antidote For Temptation

- We have been taught that certain words and phrases are vulgar, profane and unacceptable – Ephesians 4:29 – to speak words that edify.
- We have been taught to put God and His kingdom first in our lives – to assemble with God’s people – Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 6:33.
- We have been taught to be honest in all things, not to cheat or lie; to respect what is right in the sight of all men – Romans 12:17b.

Jesus Tempted By Satan:

Test between Good & Evil – Matt. 4:1-11

- Temptation through physical appetite – to turn stones to bread, which He could have done – 4:3.
- Temptation through “tempting God” – asked to deliberately endanger Himself to receive help from God – 4:6.
- Temptation of material things – glory of the kingdoms of this world versus the glory of God’s world – importance of worshipping God – 4:9.

Overcoming Temptation As Jesus Did

Matthew 4:1-11

- By appealing to the Truth of God as contained in the Scriptures – “it is written.”
- By relying upon the Truth contained in Scripture.
- By knowing and doing what the scriptures teach.
- By returning good for evil – Matt. 5:39.
- By refusing to “take a dare” – (throw yourself down 4:6).
- By putting God before personal interests.

How We Can Overcome Temptation

- By following the example of Christ – 1Corinthians 11:1
- By seeking God's way of escape – 1Corinthians 10:13.
- By praying often for God to help us overcome temptation – Hebrews 4:14-16.
- By being strengthened and encouraged by other Christians – 1Thessalonians 5:11.