

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION I COR. 10:13

Intro. “Yield not to Temptation...” (Song). Temptation is not selective. It comes to everyone. one of the greatest dangers a Christian faces is temptation. We face temptation every day of our lives. At home, at work, at school, in our cars, in the books we read, in the TV we watch, in the places we go on the internet, from our friends and our enemies.

How we deal with temptation is the important issue. Such will show the true character of a person. Some people simply give in, thinking they have no choice, or they do not really care about the consequences. Some have the idea that I have plenty of time to straighten out my life. What’s the harm in it? Hopefully we will see in this lesson that giving in to temptation can have eternal consequences. it may follow you the rest of your earthly life and then into eternity. It is a very serious subject.

I. What Does Temptation Mean?

A. Old Testament.

1. Several words that are translated “to tempt, temptation, tempted.”
2. One means “to test, to prove, or to put to the test, often through hardship.”
3. Gen. 22:1—the testing of Abraham to determine his quality of dedication.

B. New Testament.

1. It means to “entice, to prove, to try, with good or mischievous intent.”
2. Sometimes it is used of trials with a beneficial purpose and effect.
3. Most of the time we think of it in the sense of “enticing or inducing us to do evil.”
4. James 1:13-15...
 - a. The temptation in this text is the enticement to do evil.
 - b. People have always blamed God (Gen. 3:12).
 - c. Perhaps the people of James’ day were as some today, always looking for a way to escape responsibility for their actions.
 - d. God has never, nor will He ever entice one to sin.
 - e. Temptation comes from Satan.
 - f. One can be tempted from within.
 - g. Deception is chief characteristic of temptation.
 - h. Temptation is progressive.
5. I Cor. 10:13...
 - a. No temptation exceeds our power of resistance.
 - b. You are not the only person in the world facing temptation.
 - c. A way of escape is always provided. You can endure it.
 - d. We will look at some of those in a few minutes.

C. Positive Aspects of Temptation.

1. When Christians encounter temptation, the Christian is identified with Christ (I Pet. 4:12,13).
2. Temptation reveals the quality of the Christian’s dedication.
3. When temptation is encountered, it can be an opportunity to strengthen or mature one’s character.
 - a. Romans 5:3
 - b. James 1:2
4. It seems that temptation is connected with wisdom (James 1:3-5).
5. Certainly the ability to see the positive aspect of temptation as well as what is waiting for those who endure temptation, is a wise thing indeed.

II. How do I overcome temptation?

- A. Look at the example of Christ (Heb. 4:15).

1. Matthew 4: “It is written...”
 2. The word of God is extremely important.
 - a. Psa. 119:11
 - b. Phil. 4:8
 3. He rightly divided the word.
 4. He put God first. Practiced self-denial.
- B. The way of prayer and watchfulness (Matt. 26:41).
- C. Way of flight.
1. I cor. 10:14—flee idolatry.
 2. II Tim. 2:22—flee youthful lusts.
 3. Gen. 39:12—Joseph.
- D. Way of Fight.
1. Eph. 6:11—whole armor of God.
 2. Eph. 6:14—stand therefore...
 3. I Tim. 6:11,12—flee, follow, fight.
- E. Trust in the Lord.
1. Heb. 4:15
 2. Heb. 2:17,18—“He is able to come to the help of those who are tempted...”
 3. II Peter 2:9
- F. Deal with the problem decisively.
1. Matt. 18:7-9
 2. No teaching mutilation.
 3. Do whatever it takes to remain faithful.
- G. Be careful about the situation in which you find yourselves.
1. Satan has many devices (I Cor. 2:11).
 2. I Cor. 15:33—“evil companionship corrupts good morals.” (ASV)

Conclusion: Temptation, for a Christian, is part of living in this world (II Tim. 3:12). Temptation as used in the Bible, is either a test or an enticement to sin. How the Christian responds to temptation will determine if it becomes sin (Jam. 1:14,15), and the response will determine where he will spend eternity. May we have the attitude of Job (Job. 23:10). *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”* Revelation 3:21, *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”*