



COLLEGE OF THE SCRIPTURES

Greater Christ Temple APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 05/15/2019 6:00 PM

Fundamental Christian Living pt. 5

“Overcoming Temptation”

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GreaterCTC.org



Overcoming Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

- Temptation is the offer of, solicitation to, or enticement to sin by promise of pleasure or gain.

- To be tempted is not sin in and of itself, but to give in to temptation is sin (transgression)

1 John 3:4

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

- God allows His children to be tempted toward sin, the purpose here is that we might choose Him over sin, His way over our way, His desire over our desire, and so to glorify Him with our lifestyle of worship (submission). For this reason He gives us, through His Holy Spirit, the power to resist temptation, and often even a literal way (passage) of escape from our tempting situation.

- God never allows His children to be tempted more than He empowers them to resist, God's aim for you is always victory in Christ:
 - 2 Corinthians 2:14
 - 14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.
- By repeatedly causing His church to overcome temptation He is glorified in frustrating the devil and humiliating him in using us to exemplify his multi-level, multi-dimensional, all-encompassing wisdom:

○ Ephesians 3:10

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God

- This wisdom of God is made known (in the since of “In Your Face!”) by the Church to satan and his kingdom of darkness (principalities, powers, spiritual armies of wickedness in the spiritual realm) when we simply OBEY God instead of falling into the temptation:

○ Galatians 5:16-17

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- Let us take note though, the Bible talks about God allowing us to be tempted, but God Himself never, ever, ever tempts anyone to sin:
 - James 1:13-14
 - 13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
- Satan is referred to as “the tempter” in Matthew 4:3 and 1 Thessalonians 3:5. It is satan who presents before us the temptation of sin (when we don’t present it to ourselves, that is).

○ James 1:14-16

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. **15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

- Satan only has three (3) tools with which to tempt us, these are the three major defects of our fleshly (self-centered) man:

○ 1 John 2:16

16 For all that *is* in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.

- Satan tempts us, or else we are tempted of ourselves, by:

1. The lust of the flesh

2. The lust of the eyes

3. The pride of life

- Let us examine how it is that satan tempted Jesus with these same three, take note that they will usually work together for stronger temptation, we will also observe how it is that Jesus overcame temptation:

○ Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

▪ **(1. THE LUST OF THE FLESH)**

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

▪ **(3. THE PRIDE OF LIFE)**

5 then devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the

○ pinnacle of the temple, **6** and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" **7** Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

▪ ***(2. THE LUST OF THE EYES)***

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God,

and Him only you shall serve.'" **11** Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

- We also take great notice of how the Bible tells us that the victorious saints overcome the devil and his devices (temptations):

- Revelation 12:9-11

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them¹¹

before our God day and night, has been cast down. **11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

- It is the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, which has broken us free from sin (Romans 6:14) and from our slavery which once held us to obey the lust of our flesh in following temptation.
- Our testimony is that we have been saved by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Our testimony is the gospel, and the Word of the gospel is the Word of God. The Word of God is our sword in the spirit realm (Ephesians 6:17), the only

offensive weapon given to us by God to do combat with the enemy. We, like Jesus, must know and quote the scriptures in our time of temptation, many are often surprised power and freedom which results from using this principle of warfare.

(Our other offensive weapons of warfare are made manifest through our own spirits when we are in communion with God, they are prayer and the praise of a worshipper, and they are quite effective in battle!)

- As part of the model prayer, Christ told us to make a preemptive strike against temptation by praying:

Matthew 6:13 (clarification mine)

13 And lead us not (let us not be led) into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

- Wisdom also teaches us that we will not be tempted if we stay away from things which we know will tempt us:

1 Thessalonians 5:22

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

- Get away from every place or situation where evil (sin or temptation) appears (shows up).
- Have nothing to do with anything which even appears (seems¹⁴

like) evil (sin or temptation).

- These are defensive (self-protective) measures

- The following **4** principles can help you fight and win against temptation:

1. 2 Timothy 2:22

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- Be honest with God and with yourself. At the time of temptation, don't debate the issue. The longer we wrestle with tempting thoughts, the closer we get to committing the sin. Flee from the temptation as soon as you recognize it.

2. 1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- Be ever watchful over you own soul that you don't fall into temptation and be sure that you recognize your enemy. Understand that this is serious business! You are engaged in a battle for your very soul. There is an enemy, the devil, who prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking souls whom he may (is able to) devour. We must be diligent to devour-proof ourselves. The enemy will use any temptation to draw you away from God.

3. James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- Humble yourself before God in recognition that He is the true power and supreme authority in all things, at all times, in every place, and admit that you are dependent upon His help.
- ...then resist the temptation and the tempter (the devil) through Jesus! Go to the LORD and receive mercy and grace in your time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16). Remember, you are NOT alone in your struggle.
 - Satan tries to discourage us through isolation, telling us that our temptation is unique. This simply isn't true:

- “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

- Give thanks. In the midst of the struggle, thank God for the opportunity to experience victory through Him. We grow as we overcome temptation:

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

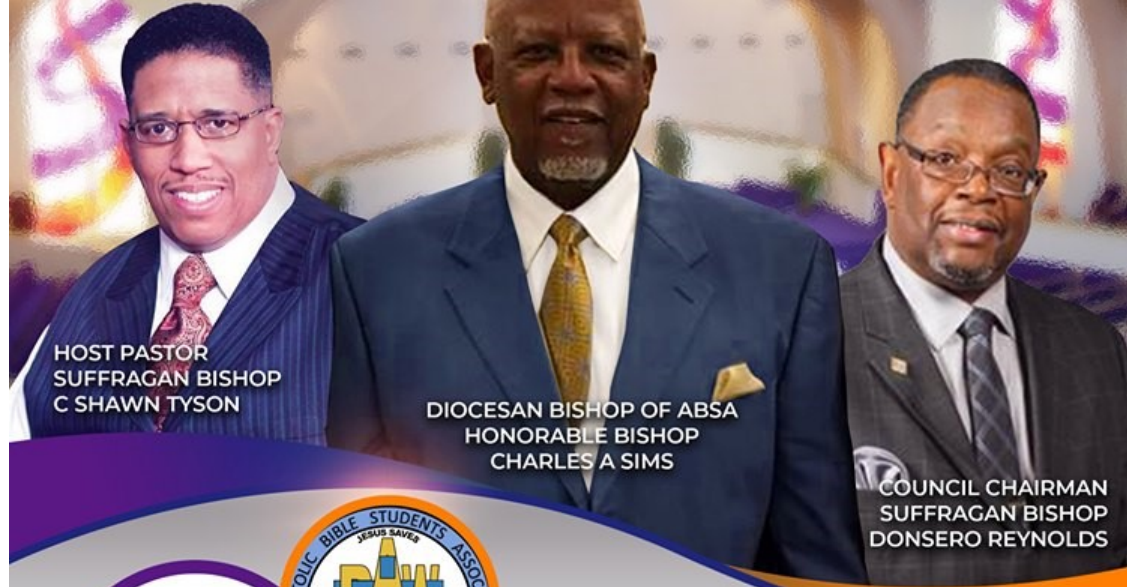
- Thank God for providing a way of escape!
- And finally, remember that you are what you eat:

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

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