

SERMON NOTES



June 4, 2017

“We cannot escape temptation, so we should have a battle plan to overcome it.”

Elements of Temptation:

1. The Cause
2. The Cost
3. The Cure

The Cause of Temptation: Conflict – Old Nature – New Nature

- Temptation causes you to draw away from God.
- Trials cause you to get stronger by exercising your faith.
- There is a reward attached to overcomers.
- As an overcomer, your spirit is open to receive more, see more and give more.

James 1:12-14 (NKJV)

¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- Blessed means happy.
- A happy heart releases health in our body.
- A happy attitude will lengthen your life.
- A happy spirit causes you to be more relaxed.
- Being relaxed causes you to feel safe.

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. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

- God does not tempt with evil.
- Temptation draws you away from God.
- We are tempted by our own designs.
- Temptation is birthed by your desires.
- When you manage your desires, you manage temptation.

The Cost of Temptation: A Who Not A What – Not Principle – A Person

1. Confusion

- Faith does not start where there is confusion.
- Faith does not operate where there is confusion.
- A “what” will never deliver you from temptation, a “who” will bring deliverance from temptation and the “who” is Jesus Christ.

2. Guilt

3. Shame

4. Condemnation

- Condemnation and temptation stops your faith.
- Faith does not work when you live as a defeated Christian.

5. Frustration

6. Discouragement

Romans 7:15 – 24 (TLB)

¹⁵ I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I can't. I do what I don't want to—what I hate. ¹⁶ I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience proves that I agree with these laws I am breaking. ¹⁷ But I can't help myself because I'm no longer doing it. It is sin inside me that is stronger than I am that makes me do these evil things.

¹⁸ I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn I can't make myself do right. I want to but I can't. ¹⁹ When I want to do good, I don't; and when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. ²⁰ Now if I am doing what I don't want to, it is plain where the trouble is: sin still has me in its evil grasp.

²¹ It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned; ²³⁻²⁵ but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin.

So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free.

The Cure of Temptation:

- Jesus Christ is the cure of temptation.
- Jesus has set us free!
- Know Jesus as Lord, who He is and what He has done for you.
- Pursue God!

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the cost of giving into temptation?
2. Who brings deliverance from temptation?
3. What is your battle plan to overcome temptation?

Resources:

If you would like to look at “**How To Overcome Temptation**” sermon series in more depth, Church On The Rock bookstore has excellent resources available.

