

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Let us begin by defining *temptation* according to the words of Christ. In its original form, *temptation* is: to submit to the structure of life and service according to the will of the Heavenly Father; to test, to be tried; to attempt, and prove; to lift up; to become experienced by conceding to the will of the Most High and none other.

“BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT ENDURETH TEMPTATION; FOR WHEN HE IS TRIED, HE SHALL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE, WHICH THE LORD HATH PROMISED TO THEM THAT LOVE HIM.” JAMES 1:12

Though perhaps it may be easier said than done, if and when an individual goes through the unenviable task of *“losing their life in order to gain their true life,”* as we are commanded by Christ to do so, that individual will effectively convert, remake and thoroughly transform themselves becoming *free from the cares of this world*. It is important and fundamental to overcome the burden of struggling against “worldly” temptations so that no longer are the cares of this world and reliance upon unimportant matters bearing rule in your life. A person will essentially know the truth of a matter and therefore will not yield to “worldly” temptations which now have become null and void. You will now overcome and withstand the wiles of Satan.

“LET NO MAN SAY WHEN HE IS TEMPTED, I AM TEMPTED OF GOD: FOR GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED WITH EVIL, NEITHER TEMPTETH HE ANY MAN:” JAMES 1:13

Now, ask yourselves seriously, what need has the Heavenly Father to do with a person filled with pride and sin? There is no need at all. A person must understand that the Father hates all abominations and all that have not the love of Christ abiding in them. Therefore, one must have a devout and faithful acceptance of obedience in the keeping of His laws. A person must honestly take an inward look at his own intents of heart and mind, and then take into account the actions that follow with the understanding that the abominable outcome of such actions all stem from their own misguided counsel of thoughts.

So, what **INSIGHT** about our character, soul and spirit is to be gained from these flaws? Once again, the gaining of such insight hinges upon **SACRIFICE**. Call to mind that YaHaWaShi (Christ) taught us through His own sacrifice of being impaled on that tree for the sins of His people Israel, that the lesser (ways of sin) must be given up for the greater (ways of obedience).

“AND BEING FOUND IN FASHION AS A MAN, HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF, AND BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.” PHILIPPIANS 2:8

The key to conquering such worldly temptations rest upon “**humility and sacrifice**” -- what is one willing to offer up to defeat and overcome the temptations that the world entices us with. There are effective ways to resist this challenge and Christ gives us the clear-cut decision making strategy and method:

“AND HE SAID TO THEM ALL, IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME.” LUKE 9:23

Not every other day or two, **but daily!**

“BUT EVERY MAN IS TEMPTED, WHEN HE IS DRAWN AWAY OF HIS OWN LUST, AND ENTICED.” JAMES 1:14

A conceited and high-minded individual will succumb to temptation without knowledge due to spiritual blindness. Their own wickedness will cause them to be deceived. This is the allurements of many which have stumbled without proper scriptural understanding.

Without having a mind well-instructed, adequately equipped with the knowledge and wisdom that Christ gave his disciples, one will not defeat his struggles against “worldly” temptations and will be unable to understand the ways of Christ. Christ taught with *simplicity*, meaning that which is understandable, straightforward and clear.

“BUT I FEAR, LEST BY ANY MEANS, AS SERPENT BEGUILLED EVE THROUGH HIS SUBTILITY, SO YOUR MINDS SHOULD BE CORRUPTED FROM THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST.” II CORINTHIANS 11:4

It should become necessary at this point that every person seeking to overcome the conniving, sly, and crafty ways of “worldly” temptation, **to be ever so conscious and circumspect of every thought streaming through their mind**, to giving the utmost attention to the enticements, lures and seductions that come to draw a person away from being alert to such temptations.

“THEN WHEN LUST HATH CONCEIVED, IT BRINGETH FORTH SIN: AND SIN, WHEN IT IS FINISHED, BRINGETH FORTH DEATH.” JAMES 1:15

“FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH: BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS
ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.”
ROMANS 6: 23

So what is **LUST**? Scriptural understanding is: *lasciviousness*, which is, *being loose or lewd; promoting lustful desires in one self and in others*. Let us not be remiss, all things are led and followed through by the *complete obedience and compliance* to the **LAWS OF CHRIST** -- there's no getting around that point. When confronted with such temptations, we must instantaneously put into action all our heightened senses to over-throw these insidious intruders. Then we will begin to make our way toward the light which leads to the everlasting day where neither darkness nor temptations have power, rule or control.

Finally, as learned students of scripture, we must be active participants of the words that Christ has imparted to us in order to defend, defeat and uphold all that is contrary to this cause.

“FOR I AM PERSUADED, THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE,
NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR POWERS, NOR
THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME. NOR HEIGHT, NOR
DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE, SHALL BE ABLE TO
SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST
JESUS OUR LORD.” ROMANS 8:38-39
