

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION AND SIN.

Introduction:

Overcoming temptation and sin is a vital aspect of Christian life. Temptation and sin are universal human experiences. Understanding our nature, sin, the stages, and the new nature of a born-again believer is crucial for every Christian. We will explore how sin entered humanity and continues to affect us through spiritual and physical "gates." We will examine key biblical events that opened the gates of sin to all humanity and how individual sins enter our lives through the gates of our body—eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, and heart.

This lesson aims to provide a comprehensive overview of these elements and practical ways to avoid pitfalls.

Sin:

Sin is not merely a mistake or a bad choice; it is an offense against holy God. Understanding sin is crucial because it affects our relationship with God and determines our spiritual destiny. Sin brings death, but God's grace offers life through Jesus Christ.

Definition of sin.

Sin is any thought, word, action, or omission that goes against God's holy and perfect will. It is a deliberate and purposeful violation of God's laws, commandments and, of the will of God, reflecting disobedience and rebellion against Him. Sin separates humanity from God, leading to spiritual death and the need for redemption through Jesus Christ.

The Bible, describes sin as "transgression of the law"

- (1 John 3:4 1 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- "falling short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.").

Temptation

Temptation is the enticement or urge to sin, often presented as an attractive alternative to obedience to God's commands. It is the process by which a person is drawn towards thoughts, desires, or actions that are contrary to God's will.

- Temptation is the lure or enticement to do something that is wrong, often presenting sin as desirable or beneficial in the moment.

God does not tempt us:

- James 1:13, 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:

Temptation itself is not a sin, but yielding to temptation leads to sin consequently death.

James 1:14-15 (KJV): "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

- 1 Corinthians 10:13 (KJV): "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 a test of one's character and faith, and resisting it is an important aspect of living a righteous and godly life.

Explanation of Temptation

The Bible provides a clear understanding of temptation, its origins, and how believers can overcome it.

1. Sources of Temptation

Temptation arises from three primary sources: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

The World: The world offers temptations through materialism, power, and pleasure. These are the values and attractions that are in opposition to God's ways.

- 1 John 2:15-16 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

The Flesh: The flesh represents our sinful nature, with its desires and cravings that go against the Spirit of God.

- Galatians 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

The Devil: Satan actively seeks to lead people away from God, often using deception and lies to tempt them into sin.

- 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

2. The Nature of Temptation

Temptation is the testing or trial that can lead to sin if not resisted. Jesus Himself was tempted, yet He did not sin, showing that being tempted does not equate to wrongdoing.

- Hebrews 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

3. The Process of Temptation - Temptation follows a process that can lead to sin if not checked:

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." — James 1:14-15 (KJV)

- Desire: The individual is drawn by their own desires or lusts.
- Enticement: The individual is enticed or lured by the temptation.
- Conception of Sin: The desire, once indulged, leads to the birth of sin.
- Consequence: Sin, once fully grown, leads to death.

Overcoming Temptation

God provides believers with the strength to resist temptation. No temptation is too strong to be overcome, and God always provides a way of escape.

- "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." — 1 Corinthians 10:13 (KJV)

Jesus as Our Example

Jesus' temptation in the wilderness serves as a powerful example of how to overcome temptation. He used Scripture to resist the devil's temptations, showing the importance of knowing and applying God's Word.

- "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." — Matthew 4:3-4 (KJV)

Temptation is a universal experience, but it does not have to lead to sin. By relying on God's strength, using His Word, and following the example of Jesus, believers can overcome temptation and live in a way that honors God.

- Joseph Resisting Temptation (Genesis 39): Joseph's refusal to yield to Potiphar's wife's advances.