***HOW TO TURN TEMPTATION INTO TRIUMPH***

**1 Corinthians 10:12-14**

12So, **if you think you are standing firm**, be careful that you don’t fall! 13***No temptation***has overtaken you except what is **common** to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be ***tempted*** beyond what you can bear. But when you are ***tempted***, **he will also provide a way out** so that you can endure it.

**Intro:** **How an Eskimo kills a wolf.**

* He will repeatedly coat the KNIFE blade in blood,
* Allowing it to freeze, until the blade is covered.
* He will place the knife in the snow and As the wolf licks the blood,
* His tongue is numbed, and his hunger is fueled.

The wolf will lick the knife,

* Cut his own tongue and Eventually bleed himself to death Out of his own lusts.

**Satan uses the same tactic** to *defeat God’s children*.

* He knows that **he can never have your soul**,
* But he also knows if he can cause us **to succumb to temptation**,
* Then we will become **powerless** - And **useless as Christians**.

**Salvation is not a barrier to temptation!**

* On the contrary,
* Satan is more likely to attack **the Christian** than the **unbeliever**.
* After all, he already has **the lost person!**
* He loves nothing better than:
* Causing ***one of God’s children*** to fall into sin.

However, **temptation**, while it ***cannot*** *be avoided*, **can be overcome**!

* While it is hard to endure temptation
* It can be used to help us grow in Jesus.

I believe every believer needs and wants to know ***how to turn temptation into triumph!!!!!!!***

When temptation arises, we usually respond in **one of three ways.**

1. **The primary method for dealing with temptation: simply give in to it!!!**

* Many people live by **“If it feels good, do it,”** mentality.
* They live like animals,
* Doing everything they can to **gratify the flesh.**
* Nearly all **lost people** live like this,
* But sadly, **so do many Christians!**

1. **Others struggle against temptation daily.**

* They spend all their time **fighting temptation in their own strength!!!!**
* They fight and fail over and over,
* Because no one can overcome his evil nature **alone.**
* If we could defeat the power of sin on our own strength,
* It would have been **pointless for Jesus to die** for us.
* This type of person hates what he does,
* **Because they** **do not have the power to stop.**

1. **Finally, there are those who overcome temptation through the power of Jesus Christ.**

* They turn their temptations **into *triumphs*.**
* That may sound like wishful thinking to many of you,
* But I want you to know that **you can win over temptation.**
* **It is possible to live in victory.**

There are a **few things that you need to know** to be able to do this.

Let’s think together this morning on this thought: **“How To Tame Temptation.”**

I. **THE SUBJECT OF TEMPTATION (Who is affected?)**

1. **All humans** are subject to temptation.

* Best to the least - Jesus, Peter, David, etc.

1. **We are daily** assaulted with a wide range of ***temptations***. (List some!)

* We all have one area where we are particularly susceptible.

1. It is **not a sin** to be tempted.

Jesus – Heb. 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who **has been tempted in every way**, just as we are—**yet he did not sin.**

* Sin enters the picture **when temptation is *surrendered to*.**

1. **Our greatest danger** is to think we have arrived at a place where we are above sinning

* **1 Corinthians 10:12**- **if you think you are standing firm**…..

**Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.**

* When our **pride tells us** that we cannot fall,
* Then we are headed for a huge one!
* **Pride** in this area just tempts the devil!

1. **Why doesn’t God** just kill the devil and remove the attraction **for sin?**

* ***Without opposition, there is no victory!***
* God **has not** called us to a life of ease, **but to one of victory.**
* A victory that we cannot enjoy until -We have faced evil and overcome it.

II. **THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION** **(Where)**

**1 Corinthians 10:13a -****No temptation**has overtaken you except what is **common** to mankind.

A. **“Common”** - Do not think your temptations are so great, **they are**

**just like the ones we all face.**

* They are just **common** - run of the mill - garden-variety temptations.
* We all get the **same ones from the same sources.**

**1 John 2:16 - For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.**

**There are three primary sources of temptation:**

1. The world!
2. The flesh!
3. The devil!!!!!

***Let’s look at these three sources and how they attack us.***

1. **The World** - In the Bible, the word for world means **“system or order.”**

* The Bible speaks of this system **called the world** and says that ***it is evil***.

**1 John 2:15** - **Do not love the world** or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.

**It is possible for** believers to become **so worldly** that -

* They **fail** to stand out for the Lord.
* **We are to be** different and distinct.

**We are not to allow the world to force us into its mold**

**Rom. 12:1-2**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies **as a living sacrifice**, **holy and pleasing to God**—this is your true and proper worship.

**2Do not conform** to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—**his** good, pleasing and perfect will.

***Let’s look at the second source of temptation and how it attacks us.***

1. **The Flesh** - Born into everyone of us,

* From the most innocent child - To the most godly adult,
* Is a bent in our nature.
* ***There is a leaning toward sin***.
* We inherited this from our first father, Adam.

It is called the **“old Nature.”**

**Gal. 5:17 –**

For **the flesh desires** what is contrary to the Spirit, **and the Spirit** what is contrary to the flesh.

**They are in conflict with each other**, so that **you are not** to do whatever you want.

When we fail, **we try to blame our sin on the devil**.

* Yes, **he tempts us** and **Points us** toward sin,
* But, **we are responsible** for the final decision,

***Let’s look at the third source of temptation and how it attacks us.***

1. **The Devil** - **His main objective**, as far as you are concerned,

* Is to **cause you to fall**
* **So that *God is dishonored***
* You become **useless** to the Kingdom work of God.

**He knows every weakness** you have and **he exploits** them

* Trying to **get you to sin**.
* He tells you how great sin will be,
* That you will get by with it,
* That you even deserve it,
* **But he hates you** and ***he is plotting your defeat***.

He loves to point at fallen saints & laugh before God as he stands accusing us of evil. **Don’t give him the satisfaction!**

III. **THE SEAT OF TEMPTATION** **(How)**

1. **Man is made in the image of the triune God.**

Man is a triune being, he possesses **body, soul and spirit**.

* **When** you are tempted,
* It will always be in one of these three areas.

We need to understand this principle and **understand the areas that will come under attack** if we are going to overcome our temptations.

1. **The Soul -** This is the word used to describe the you that lives inside your

body.

* It speaks of your mind, your will and you emotions.
* **The world** is the primary tempter of the soul.

**The world says to the soul**, “You need more, you can have more!”

* The world always appeals **to the ego, or pride**.

**A worldly person** is One who is given over to the pleasures of the world.

* **Lot - Gen. 13:10-12** – **Abram and Lot Separate**

***Lot looked, leaned, lived and lost in the world.***

1. **The Body** - **The flesh**, referring to the **“old nature”** always attacks the body.

* We are tempted to **laziness**, **lust**, **overindulgence**, **sexual sin**, etc.
* These are **temptations of the flesh!**
* **David with Bathsheba - 2 Sam. 11**

***David should have been at war, should not have been looking!!!!***

1. **The Spirit -** **The spirit** is the primary arena for satanic attack.

* If **the soul is our self-consciousness**,
* Then **the spirit is our God-consciousness**.
* **Our spirit** is what **sets us apart** from the animals.

**Man alone can know God!**

* It is in the spirit that we can know God.
* The spirit is the realm of worship,

**John 4:24** - **God is spirit**, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

* It is our spirit that worships and communicates with God.

**Satan hates this communion!!!!**

* He wars against the spirit

in an effort to **cut off our fellowship** with God.

* He places **doubts in our minds** to distract us.
* He places **false doctrine** there to turn us away from the truth.

**Satan attacks the spirit.**

* In ***Peter’s denial*** of Jesus - **the temptation was directed at the spirit.**
* **He wasn’t** under an ego attack, or under sexual assault -

**he was caused to doubt the truth.**

IV. **THE SUBDUING OF TEMPTATION** **(What)**

1. There are three words to remember **when facing temptation:**

**Flight, Faith, Fight.**

1. *To Overcome The Flesh* **We Need Flight** –

***The key to defeating fleshly temptations is to FLEE from them.***

1 Cor. 6:18 - “flee fornication”;

1 Cor. 10:14 - “flee idolatry”;

2 Tim. 2:22 - “flee youthful lusts”

* **You cannot expose yourself to fleshly temptation** and
* expect to walk away untouched –

***Situations to avoid! Joseph and Potipher’s wife - Gen. 39:12***

1. *To Overcome The World* **We Need Faith** –

* Faith that **Jesus** will take care of us
* when we willingly give up the attachment to worldly things.
* If we are **loving the world** -
* we are **not loving God** –

**If you really want victory over the world,**

* then **love Jesus** more than you **love the world** –

**Heb. 12:2** - **Fixing our eyes on Jesus,** the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

* It is our faith in him that offers us the victory

1. *To Overcome The Devil* **We Must Fight** –

* If we **stand up to him and fight**, **he will flee** –

**James 4:7** - **Submit** yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and **he will flee** from you.

* You cannot run away from him,
* ***But, you can drive him away from you.***

You must **face him in the power** of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

**CLOSE:**

**Satan doesn’t fear you** -

* But he trembles before **the blood of the Lamb!**
* **Fight Satan** and he will flee!

**1 Pet. 5:8 -** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

**Jesus and His temptations –**

**Matt. 4 - For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.**

I don’t know **what temptations** you may be dealing with in your life.

However, **I do know that if you are breathing, you are battling!**

Our greatest resource **in the face of temptation** is ***a close relationship with Jesus***.

My counsel to you is that you bring your need to Him.

Whatever, ***the need***, the **trial**, or the **temptation**…..

**Lay it down before the Lord** and expect Him to help.

He has promised us grace **during temptation**.

Why not take Him up on the offer today?