

Understanding and Overcoming Temptation

Flow Stage #2 (Session #8)

I am writing to you, young men, because **you have overcome the evil one.**

I am writing to you, young men, because **you are strong,** and **the word of God lives in you,** and **you have overcome the evil one.**

1. Review of **John's** Purpose Writing to Young Men

- Have faith and confidence in God at all times (you are strong)
- Meditate on God's word (the word of God lives in you)
- Overcome temptation (you have overcome the evil one)

2. Description of Temptation

Common Sources of Temptation:

- Desire for Admiration	- Disparagement	- Boredom	- Sadness, Loss
- TV, Internet	- Opportunity for secrecy	- Stress	- Busyness
- Aspirations	- Food, Sales	- Success	- Loneliness

- These everyday situations easily lead us to commit sin (e.g. disparagement and lack of love, food and gluttony, boredom and lust, success and pride)
- Existence of Temptation: _____ (2 Cor 4:4) and _____ (Rom 7:21)
- Temptation is inevitable, but sin is not!
 - God is greater than Satan and _____ overcomes the world (1 John 5:4-5)
 - God's will is that _____, and He helps us (1 Cor 10:13)
 - God wants us to realize Satan's _____ : there is truly a much more full and pleasant life that He has both made possible and wants us to enjoy!

3. A Choice: Dead Faith and Proactive Faith

- "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (Jer 2:13)
- Dead faith does not trust in God and thus lacks direction and joy

- By looking away from God for satisfaction and purpose, a dead faith produces no works (James 2:17) but conceives sin (James 1:15)
- Proactive faith consistently asserts in the heart that God is good, knows best, and does best
 - By looking to God, we find strength (Phil 4:13), wisdom (James 1:5), purpose (Eph 2:10), and joy, even in trial (James 1:2)
- This is a faith we constantly must choose to show: “if we *live* by the Spirit, let us also *walk* by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25)
- This includes believing in the _____ of God’s grace based on the _____ of Christ’s work, even if we do sin (Romans 8:1-4, 1 John 1:9)

4. A Vision: Growing Through Our Faith

- Faith in God leads to _____
 - Faith frees us from doubt in God’s willingness to provide and knowledge of our needs
 - Faith frees us to live in contentment, joy, and peace (Phil 4:4-7, 11-13)
- God alone knows our true needs, and He can and will provide (Ps 139:23-24, 1 Peter 5:6-7)
 - “I believe God always takes care of me even when I do not see how.”
 - “I believe God knows what is in my heart and always leads me in the best way.”
 - “I believe God is with me now and that I can enjoy this moment with Him.”
- Find out what is in your heart- where do you need a renewed faith in the Lord?
- Growth comes from faith that God in His perfect wisdom and timing will care for your needs no matter how easy or how impossible your circumstances might appear.

Summary

- Believers grow through the “young believer” stage by consistently putting faith in God
- Meditate on these verses that stress the Father’s gracious and loving will for your life
- Before God, ask Him to search your heart and to bring renewed faith into your life so that you can grow toward fatherhood
- Strive forward and enjoy walking with the Lord: no matter what your present circumstances, temptations and trials await, but face them joyfully, cloaked by the perfect peace of God

Discussion Questions

1. What is one tempting situation that you often come across? Are there any lies that challenge your faith in those situations?

2. Share an example in your life when you exhibited either a dead faith or a proactive faith. How did it affect your spiritual growth?