

GROVE CHURCH - Visions of Truth Ministries
Christian Freedom - Overcoming Temptation

KEY VERSE:

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1 (New International Version)

LESSON FOCUS: *Believers can gain victory over temptation.*

DISCUSSION:

- When we entertain sin, it is just a matter of time before we engage in it and become entrapped by it.

Six Aspects of Temptation

1. Temptation begins with the devil. **(Matthew 4:1)**
2. Temptation is not a sin; it is an invitation to sin. **(Revelation 12:10)**
3. Temptation from Satan is not testing from God. **(James 1:13)**
 - a. Satan tempts us to bring out the worst in us. **(Luke 4:2, 13)**
 - b. God tests us to bring out the best in us. **(1 Corinthians 3:10-15)**
4. Temptation follows a common and predictable pattern. **(1 Corinthians 10:11-13)**
5. Temptation is personalized. **(Genesis 39:6-10)**
6. Temptation can be spiritually prepared for. **(2 Corinthians 2:11)**

David's Struggle with Temptation (2 Samuel 11:1-4)

Five choices David made that led him directly into sin:

1. Idleness
2. Intent
3. Interest
4. Inquiry
5. Invitation

Ten Consequences of Yielding to Temptation

1. Distortion and devaluation of God's Word.
2. Distraction from our spiritual responsibilities and disciplines.
3. Diminishing of our spiritual effectiveness.
4. Discouragement of fellowship with God and God's people.
5. Discrediting of our Christian testimony.
6. Dilution of godly commitments and values.
7. Deterioration of our peace.
8. Disturbance of the peace of others.
9. Deadening of our conscience.
10. Domination of darkness.

Ten Principles of Overcoming Temptation

1. Be sensitive to weakness. **(Psalm 51:1-3)**
2. See the traps. **(2 Corinthians 2:11)**
3. Separated from compromise. **(James 4:7)**
4. Be sober in attitude. **(1 Corinthians 10:12)**
5. Be soft in heart. **(Psalm 51:10)**
6. Be supported by other believers. **(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)**
7. Be Spirit-filled with power. **(Ephesians 5:18)**
8. Sow into the spiritual disciplines. **(Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)**
9. Stand against evil. **(Romans 6:11)**
10. Be secure in Christ. **(Hebrews 4:15-16)**