

Keys To Victory When Facing Temptation – Part 2
Congregational Worksheet – Wednesday, April 1, 2009

This worksheet was created by Pastor Kincaid to help you complete and keep structured notes during the corresponding sermon. To fill in the blanks of this worksheet listen to the sermon from the date noted in the header of this worksheet. The sermon MP3 audio can be streamed or downloaded from the sermons page of the church website at <http://www.goshenfirstag.org/sermons.php> or a CD can be purchased (for \$0.50) from the church Media Ministry.

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Even though God has promised us in 1 Cor 10:13 that He would never allow us to be tempted with anything that He wouldn't give us the power to resist, the fact remains that temptation is still a danger to us simply because it is still a

_____.

So there are 3 very important provisions that *we* must take in order for us to not fall into and be overtaken by temptation. All of which are listed in Matt 4:1-11.

***First, lets look at this text in it's entirety...**

- Mat 4:1** Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
- Mat 4:2** And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward hungry.
- Mat 4:3** And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
- Mat 4:4** 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.**
- Mat 4:5** Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,
- Mat 4:6** And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- Mat 4:7** Jesus said unto him, **It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**
- Mat 4:8** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- Mat 4:9** And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
- Mat 4:10** Then saith Jesus unto him, **Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**
- Mat 4:11** Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Now, this account of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness is a perfect example of how a child of God can _____ Satan's enticements and _____ victorious in the face of temptation.

And it also demonstrates the three major provisions that we need to take in order for us to be able to withstand Satan's attacks.

#1. The first provision that we see demonstrated that we need to appropriate into our own lives if we are going to remain victorious in times of temptation is found in verse 2, where it says...

Mat 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward hungry.

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Here in this verse we see that one provision that Jesus made that enabled Him to resist the temptation that Satan was offering Him was the fact that He _____ Himself for the temptation.

Now, how was it that He *prepared* himself?

Well, this verse said that He did so through _____.

Now, there are a lot of views on what fasting actually is and what it consists of, so I want to define it for you and explain how it pertains to a person that wishes to prepare themselves for when they face temptation.

*The definition of fasting is.. To abstain from something for a given period of time, so that you can use that time to _____ yourself to do two very essential things...

1. Discipline yourself to _____ your flesh.

2. Ask God to give you the _____ to make it through this time of fasting and to _____ that time of fasting to strengthen you for when a *real* temptation comes your way.

Those two things are key elements to a person having the ability to resist temptation as they are facing it, and the spiritual discipline of fasting is a perfect way to accomplish both of them.

So it makes perfect sense that any _____ Christian would make this important provision, an indispensable part of their life.

*A perfect way to illustrate what fasting is and how it can aid us against temptation is by explaining the purpose of a sports team incorporating what is known as “scrimmage time” into their practices.

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When a sports team such as a football team scrimmages, what it consists of is the offense of that team and the defense of that team playing against each other in order to prepare themselves for an upcoming game.

Scrimmaging is where you _____ against members of your own team, under _____ conditions, to prepare yourself for when you are actually facing a real opponent.

Which is a perfect illustration of why fasting is so essential to a Christian resisting temptation.

When a Christian fasts, they are training against members of their own team, under controlled circumstances, in order to prepare themselves so that when “game day” really arrives, they will have the ability to defeat their opponent.

It is a type of _____ scrimmage, so to speak.

So when we look at fasting this way, it makes perfect sense that a Christian would use this valuable tool to help them have the ability to resist temptations when they come.

Yet some people still think it sounds _____ for a person to prepare themselves for temptation. So to anyone who feels this way I would like to ask these questions...

-Do you think it's strange for a person to put gas in their car in order for them to have the ability to drive when they want to?

-Do you think it's strange for a person to put on bug spray when they are going outside in the summer and the mosquitoes are biting?

-Would you think a person was silly for locking the doors of their house if a murderer was on the loose in their neighborhood?

Then why would it seem strange for a person to fast?

We have to understand that if we are going to be _____ in times of temptation, then we are going to have to take the provision of _____ ourselves against it, so that we can withstand it when it comes.

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For anyone to not take this obvious and needful step towards resisting temptation would be foolish, and would be nothing more than that person actually _____ the devil in accomplishing what he's trying to do in their life.

Satan can fight us in such powerful ways that we need to make sure that we are using everything at our disposal to combat his attacks, and fasting is one of the most powerful weapons in a Christian's arsenal.

#2. The second provision that is demonstrated in this text that we need to take heed to is found in verse 4, where it says...

Mat 4:4 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.**

The main portion of this verse that we need to draw our attention to is the first three words that Christ spoke in this sentence, "It is _____".

Because that shows us that Jesus was able to resist temptation because He made the decision that He was going to _____ on The Word of God, instead of fall to the devil's temptations.

But in order for a person to be able to do that, they first have too...

1. _____ what The Word of God has to say about the issue they are being tempted with.

David said it like this in Psalm 119:11...

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

An old preacher once said it like this, he said, "If you don't know God's truth, it will be a lot easier for you to fall for Satan's lies".

2. They have to commit themselves to not just _____ it, but they need to be committed to _____ it.

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James puts it like this in James 1:22...

Jas 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Meaning that just *knowing* what God expects is never enough, but we have to make sure that we are *surrendered* to it as well.

*Also notice another verse that James wrote that is very important to understand when your dealing with temptation. It's found in James 4:7...

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Again, there is a very important _____ that James is trying to emphasize, which is very simple and practical, but it is absolutely essential in resisting temptation.

1. _____ yourself to God.

Meaning: Know what His Word says and commit yourself to obeying it.

2. And _____ you will have the ability to resist Satan when he comes to tempt you.

Again, this progression seems very simple, but without following it, you will never be able remain victorious when it comes to dealing with temptation.

*In essence what Jesus was saying to the devil in these verses is, "Your temptations are not going to work on me because I have made the necessary provisions to be able to resist you. And because I have, I don't have to live by what's _____ to me, but I can live by what's _____ to God".

*If you are going to resist temptation, you are going to have to know God's word, commit yourself to obeying it, and refuse anything that goes against it in any way.

#3. The third provision that is demonstrated in these verses that we need to apply to our lives is found in verse 10, when Jesus said...

Mat 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, **Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

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*Now, the key thing to notice here is the first four words that Jesus spoke in this verse, where He said, “**Get thee hence, Satan...**”.

And the reason that I say that is because the term “get thee hence” in this verse literally means: Get _____ me, because I am _____ you.

And by Jesus saying these words, we see that He fully understood the _____ that He had over Satan, through His relationship with God.

The Lord phrased this attitude another way in John 14:30, when He said...
Joh 14:30 ... the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

So His statement in verse 10 shows that He wasn't looking at His temptation from the position that He had to _____ the victory to be victorious over the devil when he approached Him, but it shows that He understood that He already _____ the victory going into the temptation, so all that He really had to do was draw from it and maintain it.

And that holds a very important key to us having the ability to resist the temptations that Satan brings our way, because we have to understand that the devil will try to make us feel like *what* he is offering is so tempting, and *how* he is offering it is so powerful, that it is impossible for us to resist it.

But Matt 4:10, John 14:30, and 1 Cor 10:13 shows us that because we are Children of God, we already have the power to _____ and _____ anything that Satan offers us, even before he comes our way!

We can never forget that our victory over temptation comes through Christ, so it doesn't have to be manufactured, it just has to be maintained.

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***So it's easy to see that God is showing us what the four keys are to resisting temptation, and they are outlined very clearly in these verses...**

#1. Be _____.

You have to understand that temptations are going to come, and be determined to learn how to deal with them.

#2. Make _____ against temptation.

Don't wait to learn how to handle temptations until you are actually being tempted, but take the time before they come to learn how to remain victorious through them.

#3. Understand your _____.

Because you have been saved by The Blood of Jesus Christ, you are already victorious over the devil. The finished work of Christ at Calvary has provided you with the authority, the assurance, and the ability to live victorious over Satan, not the other way around.

#4. Be _____.

You have to decide ahead of time *how* you are going to deal with temptations when they come your way.

A Christian can not approach temptations with a “_____ mind”, meaning that they aren't sure how they will handle them when they come.

But they have to approach them with a “_____ - _____ mind”, meaning that they make the predetermined decision that...

-They are going to live above the devil, not underneath him.

-They are going to live their lives ahead of him, not behind him on a leash.

*So we have to understand that even though temptations are going to come our way on a _____ basis, and even though each one of them have the ability to destroy us spiritually, if we will just _____ these principles, regardless of how *hard* or how *often* Satan comes against us, we will have the ability to quote the words of Christ in John 14:30, and not just from _____, but through _____, when He said...

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Joh 14:30 ... the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

And we will experience the same thing that Jesus experienced at the end of our text where it said...

Mat 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

***QUESTIONS.**

1. Even though God has promised us that He would never allow us to be tempted with more that we could bear, why is temptation still a danger to us?
2. What spiritual discipline did Jesus use to prepare Himself for temptation?
3. What are the 2 main purposes of fasting?
4. How can knowing what The Bible teaches us, assist us in times of temptation?
5. James 4:7 says... “Submit yourselves therefore unto God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”.

What is the progression of that text and why do we have to follow it?

6. What does the term “get thee hence Satan” in Matt 4:10 literally mean?
7. When temptations come our way, do we need to obtain the victory to get thru them, or do we need to maintain the victory to get thru them?
8. What are the 4 main keys to resisting temptation?
9. Is temptation inevitable?
10. Regardless of how often or how fiercely Satan comes against us, should we ever be intimidated by temptation?