

Keys to overcoming temptation

We are all continually in a spiritual contest with a very real adversary who is out to destroy our faith and lives

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**



- The bible makes it clear that we as Christians are in a continual spiritual war and that the Devil would wish to distract us and discourage us from fulfilling God's plan for our life
- We also have our fallen human nature, the flesh, that would want to do its own thing



The Apostle Paul wrote, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” (Galatians 5:16-17)

- For this reason as Christians we need to lead an overcoming walk with the Lord if we are to realise our full potential in Christ and make a difference in our world for eternity

In the book of Revelation we read,
“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.” **(Revelation 2:26)**



“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”
(Revelation 21:7)



- One of the biggest temptations and distractions for many people in life is in the area of money and a pursuit of material things.
- It is not how much money that we have that is the problem, but it is our heart attitude towards money that will greatly affect our choices in life and our faith
- The simple fact is that we can have a wrong attitude towards money even if we are not rich. The simple question is whether or not money is your servant or your master



Jesus clearly addressed the issue of money when He said,

**“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”
(Matthew 6:24)**



- Jesus also rebuked the Lukewarm Church in Laodicea which had become arrogant and self-sufficient when He said,
“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither^[a] cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—” **(Revelation 3:15-17)**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out... But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

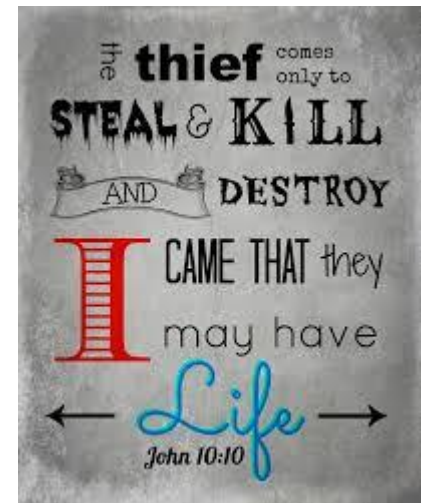
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

(1 Timothy 6:6, 7, 9-10)



Jesus Christ Himself also clearly outlined the spiritual contest that we are all engaged in when He said,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)



- **Jesus Himself was tempted in every way yet without sin, so He can identify with the struggles that we all go through in life**



In the book of Hebrews we read,
“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” **(Hebrews 4:14-16)**

In the book of Hebrews we also read,
“For in that He Himself has suffered, being
[a]tempted, He is able to aid those who are
tempted.” (Hebrew 2:18)

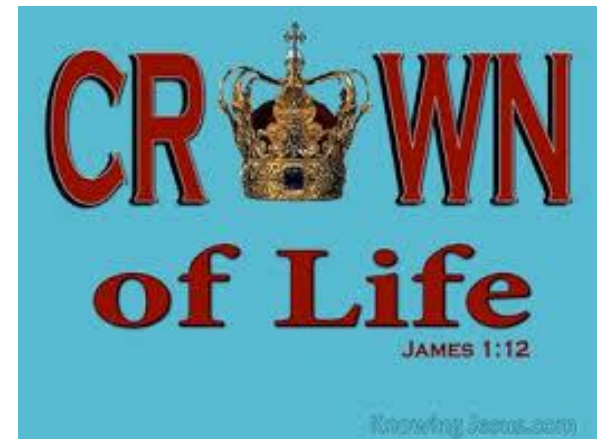


BECAUSE JESUS SUFFERED
WHEN HE WAS **TEMPTED**,
HE IS ABLE TO HELP THOSE
WHO ARE BEING **TEMPTED**.

HEBREWS 2:18



- Being able to consistently overcome temptation is a great key to walking in victory as a believer and to receiving all that God has planned for our life



In the book of James we read,

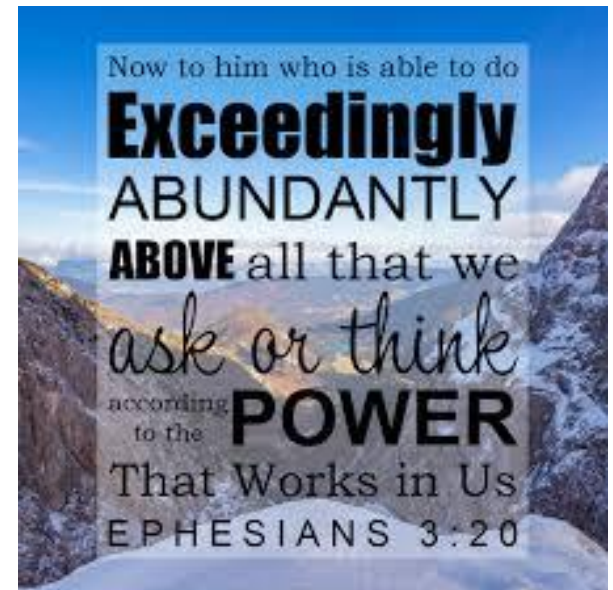
“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”
(James 1:13-16)



- Having the ability to remain strong in the midst of temptation is a great key to seeing God's plan for our life coming to pass and to experiencing His presence and power in our lives.

The Apostle Paul wrote,
“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)



- Learning to overcome the temptations of life will also help us to live a more healthy life. Sin will always have a negative affect on our lives and well being

It will be health to your body,

**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.”
(Proverbs 3:7-8)**



- Learning to overcome life's temptations helps us to grow in integrity and Christlike character
- *The way that we live our life is the greatest witness to others*
- The way that we live our life will either have a positive or negative affect on the lives of others



Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

- Particularly as parents the way that we live our life will greatly influence the way that our children turn out when they become adults



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgement of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”
(Philemon 1:6)

- Being disciplined in our Christian walk is crucial if we are to realize our full potential in Christ and to remain strong in our faith to the end

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

(1 Corinthians 9:27)



In this teaching I will be sharing very quickly
12 keys and disciplines that can help us to
overcome temptation in our lives so that we
can walk in victory as believers



1) Don't go to places that will cause you to be tempted so that you stumble and fall.

- The Holy Spirit will always caution us if we are planning to go somewhere that will cause us to stumble



The Psalmist wrote,

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.” **(Psalm 1:1-2)**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.”

(Proverbs 4:14-15)



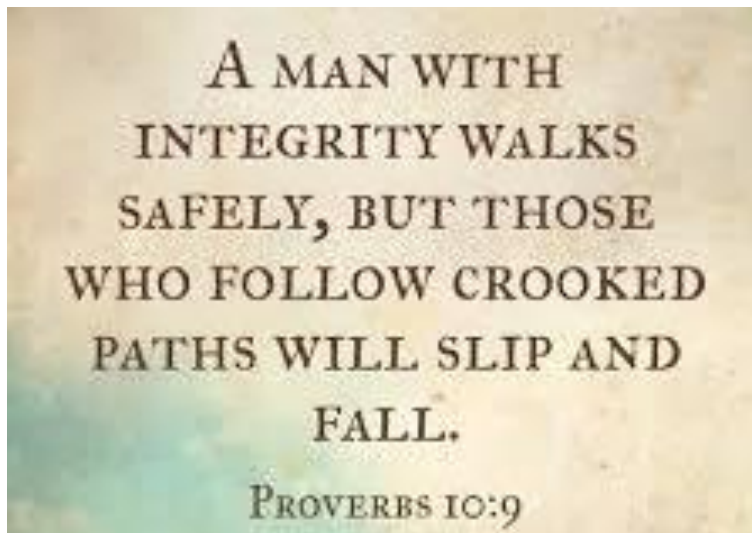
**“Ponder the path of your feet,
And let all your ways be established. Do not
turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot
from evil.” (Proverbs 4:26-27)**

- Especially for Christians who have struggled with addictions in the past, it is important that they do not visit places which have temptations that could cause them to become addicted again to those things that once held them bound
- For those who have struggled for example with gambling to visit the pokies or the TAB could cause them to stumble again. For those who have struggled with alcoholism in the past, it is wise for them to stay away from places that sell alcohol and to distance themselves from people who are heavy drinkers



**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“As a dog returns to his own vomit,
So a fool repeats his folly.” (Proverbs 26:11)**

- **As Christians we need to avoid going to places that could cause us to compromise in our walk with the Lord and to stumble and fall.**



A MAN WITH
INTEGRITY WALKS
SAFELY, BUT THOSE
WHO FOLLOW CROOKED
PATHS WILL SLIP AND
FALL.

PROVERBS 10:9

2) Be quick to heed the guidance and counsel of the Holy Spirit.

- Never go against the cautioning of the Holy Spirit by rationalizing things. This is a great key to maintaining a strong Christian walk.
- **We need to be quick to repent of those things that the Holy Spirit draws to our attention that are not right in our life.**
- Having a repentant heart is a great key to maintaining a strong and overcoming Christian walk.



- Having a repentant heart helps to keep our conscience soft and is a great key to clearly hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit on a consistent basis
- We need to keep short accounts accounts with God so that we maintain a great intimacy in our walk with the Lord



The Apostle John wrote,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)



- In the book of Acts we see an example of the consequences of not heeding the cautioning of the Holy Spirit when the Apostle Paul was on a ship headed for Rome. In the book of Acts we read,



“When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty of Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.” **(Acts 27:7-8)**

“Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, **Paul advised them, saying, “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster** and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives. Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbour of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.” **(Acts 27:9-12)**



- When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon.” (Acts 27:13-14)



- After struggling in wild winds and stormy seas for over two weeks the ship was eventually shipwrecked off the Island of Malta

- In this account we see that the Holy Spirit was warning the Apostle Paul about the dangers of the ship sailing out of the harbour
- **We see also that the majority can sometimes be wrong and give us incorrect counsel**
- That circumstances may even appear favourable at times (the south wind blew softly) to do things
- **That other people can have vested interests that cause them to disregard the wisdom from God**
- But the simple fact is that if we disregard the cautioning of the Holy Spirit there will invariably be consequences



3) Have a teachable spirit

- Learning from the wise counsel of other mature Christians is a great key to avoiding many mistakes in life.
- It is better to learn from other people's mistakes than continually having to learn from our own mistakes
- Being accountable to others is a great key to remaining strong in our faith in a world full of lawlessness and deception



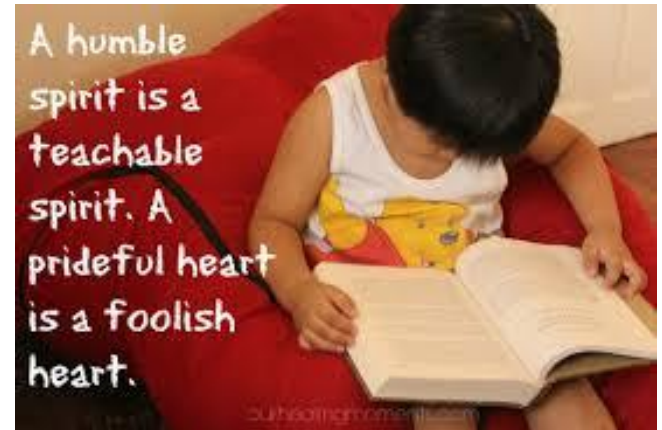
- The simple fact is that if we are not prepared to have other mature Christians speaking into our lives, we are just as likely to not allow the Lord to fully direct our steps in life
- When we are not teachable we will continually make many unnecessary poor choices in life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)



**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That
you may be wise in your
latter days.” (Proverbs 19:20)**

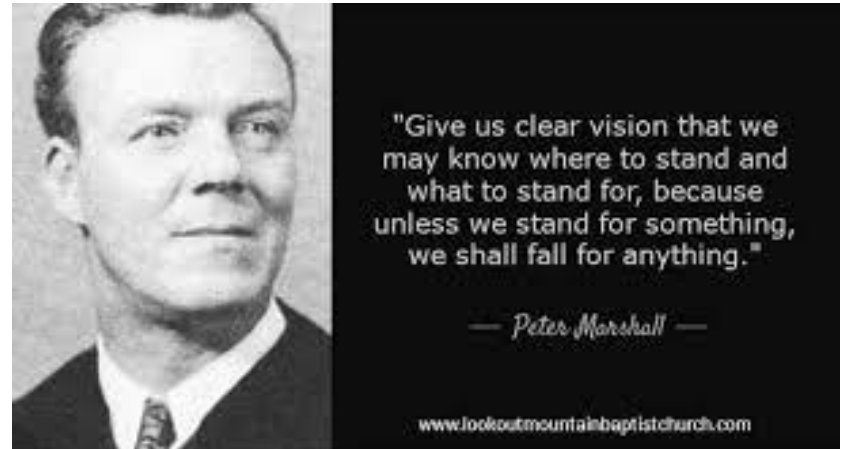


- **Having a teachable spirit helps us to learn from the wisdom of others and the experiences of others so that we make less poor choices in life**
- **Learning from others helps us to be better prepared to overcome the temptations of life**

4) Having a clear God given vision for our life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” **(Proverbs 29:18)**



- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to be focused and disciplined in our walk with the Lord

- Without a clear God given vision and focus for our life we are more likely to make poor choices in life, especially when *under pressure* or during those times when we are *experiencing loneliness or challenges* in our personal lives
- The enemy is always looking for opportunities to cause Christians to stumble and fall through poor choices in life
- With so much worldly and ungodly things now on the internet, being focused in our walk with the Lord and having a clear God given vision for our life is crucial



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, *redeeming the time, because the days are evil*. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

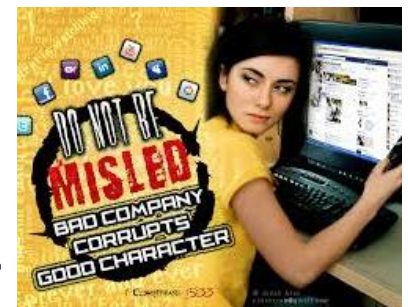
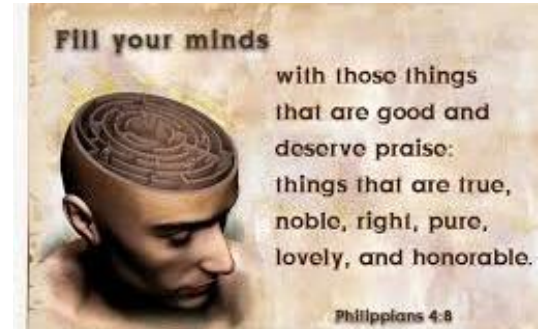
(Ephesians 5:15-17)

- Having an understanding of God’s will for our life and a clear vision and focus for our life, helps us to resist those temptations and distractions that would try and draw us away from fulfilling God’s plan for our life



5) Being continually careful about what we focus on and allow into our ear and eye gates.

- What we focus on will greatly influence our thought life and the choices that we make in life
- What we allow into our eye and ear gates will also greatly influence the degree to which we walk in victory as a believer
- What we focus on will create in us *either healthy or unhealthy desires*. We must give no place to the Devil for him to fill our minds and hearts with wrong things



- **The Apostle Paul gave us wisdom as to what we should focus on as believers**



WHATEVER IS TRUE
WHATEVER IS HONEST
WHATEVER IS PURE
WHATEVER IS LOVELY
THINK ON THESE THINGS
Philippians 4:8

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things.”

(Philippians 4:8)



- We all need to be careful about what we look at, especially when using the internet. We need to be quick to look away from those things that could cause us to stumble in our walk with the Lord
- As Pastor Jentzen Franklin preached, “We need to have bouncy eyes” and be quick to look away from those things that could cause us to fall into temptation
- In the book of 2 Samuel in the Old Testament we see how King David made several wrong choices in life as a result of him not looking away from things that he should not have been looking at



We see this in Chapter 11 of 2 Samuel,

“It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.” (2 Samuel 11:1-2)



“So David sent and inquired about the woman.
And *someone* said, “Is this not ^[a]Bathsheba, the
daughter of ^[b]Eliam, the wife of Uriah the
Hittite?” Then David sent messengers, and took
her; and she came to him, and he lay with her,
for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she
returned to her house. And the woman
conceived; so she sent and told David, and said,
“*I am with child.*” **(2 Samuel 11:3-5)**



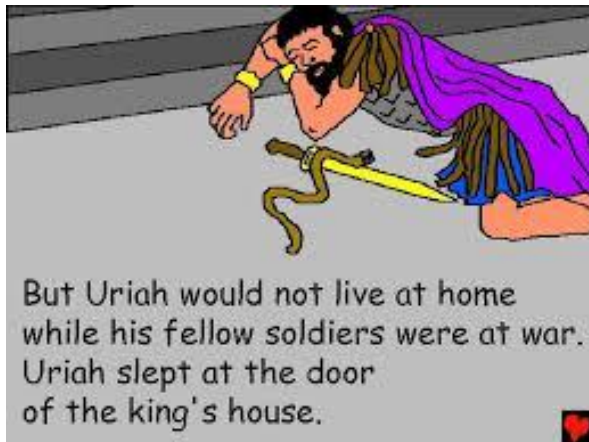
“Then David sent to Joab, *saying*, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. And David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.”

So Uriah departed from the king’s house, and a gift of food from the king followed him.”

(2 Samuel 11:6-8)



“But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. So when they told David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?” **(2 Samuel 11:9-10)**



“Then David said to Uriah, “Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.”
(2 Samuel 11:12-13)



David tries again to cover his sin

2 Samuel 11
13 At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

Unsuccessfully

A glass of red wine.

“In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the ^[c]hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.” So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there *were* valiant men. Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.”

(2 Samuel 11:14-17)



- **King David was the only one referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart**

In the book of Acts we read, “And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’ (Acts 13:22)



- **If King David, who had such a great love for God, could so easily fall into temptation and make such poor choices through being undisciplined in what he looked at, we all could so easily do the same if we are not careful**

- Though King David was forgiven by God the sword never departed from his house, with even his own son Absalom dying during an attempt to overthrow him as king

In 2 Samuel we read what the prophet Nathan said to King David on the LORD's behalf, "Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife *to be* your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon." (2 Samuel 12:9)



“Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.”

(2 Samuel 12:10-11)

- There will always be consequences when we fall into sin. Our wrong choices will also invariably affect the lives of others. **How we need to be careful about what we look at**



- In this account of King David and Bathsheba we also see clearly that leaders receive a stricter judgement from God for wrong choices, because the way that they live their life *affects the lives of many others.*



We see this in the words of the prophet Nathan to King David after he had confessed his sins,

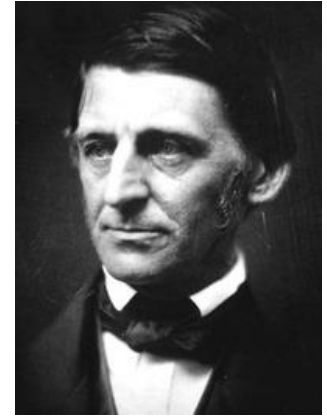
“ ... The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.” (2 Samuel 12:13-14)

6) We must always be quick to take all wrong thoughts captive and to REPLACE them with Christ centred thoughts

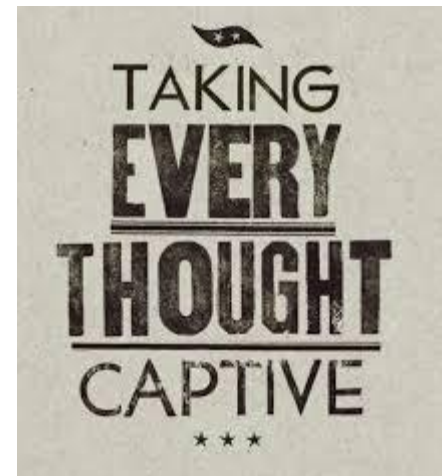
- We need to be quick to take all wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive
- The real battle ground is the mind
- Winning the battle for the mind is a great key to overcoming the temptations that we will all experience in life



- Ralph Waldo Emerson was quoted as saying,
“Sow a thought and you reap an action;
Sow an act and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit and you reap a character;
Sow a character and you reap a destiny.”

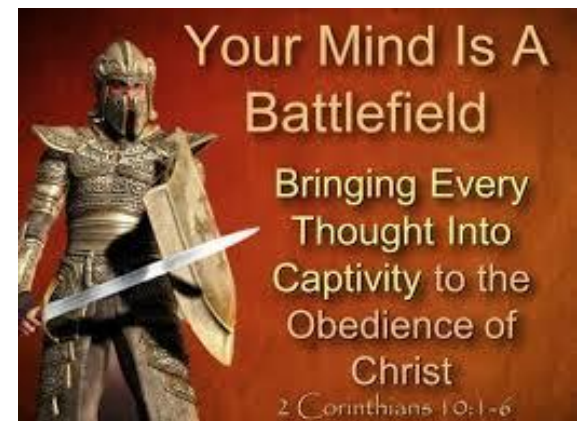


- Taking all wrong thoughts quickly captive and replacing them with Christ centred thoughts is a great key to overcoming temptations in our life



The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”
(2 Corinthians 10:4-5)**



7) We need to consistently renew our mind with the Word of God so that we develop **Kingdom thinking**

- We need to learn to meditate on the word of God so that it gets from our head into our heart.

The Psalmist wrote,

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.” **(Psalm 119:11)**

- **Being BOTH a hearer and doer of God's word is a great key to overcoming temptation and to walking in victory as a believer**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the *renewing of your mind*, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

- **Consistently meditating on the word of God helps us to develop and maintain Kingdom thinking in our lives. This is a great key to remaining strong in a world full of temptations**



- **The LORD said to Joshua just before he led the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)**



- **Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of being both a hearer and doer of God's word when He said, "Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (Matthew 7:24-27)**



8) We need to continually **CHOOSE** our friends wisely

**SURROUND
YOURSELF WITH
PEOPLE WHO
MAKE YOU A
BETTER PERSON**

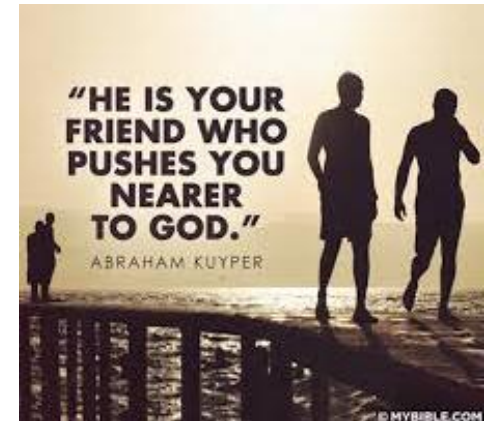
- Who we associate with in life will greatly determine the outcome of our life and the degree to which we fulfil our God given destiny
- The enemy will continually try and bring across our paths people who have the potential to negatively impact our walk with the Lord
- Many people's lives have been destroyed through wrong associations



- God will always give us the wisdom that we need to make right choices in life.



- Sometimes we may be rejected for breaking off a wrong friendship. But God always knows and wants what is best for us and desires to help us to avoid unnecessary hardship in our lives
- Particularly in relation to our inner circle of friends we need to have godly people, who will encourage us to become all that God has planned for our life
- The bible is full of wise counsel in relation to the importance of choosing our friends wisely



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)



In the book of Proverbs we read, “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (Proverbs 12:26)

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)



- Particularly in the area of choosing a life partner we need to ensure that we wait for God's choice. Our choice of marriage partner is the second most important decision next to coming to Christ

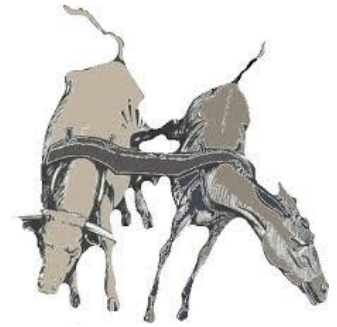


- The bible makes it clear that as believers we need to partner with other Christians in all significant relationships if we are to experience the fullness of what God has planned for our life. Even in business partnerships the ways of the world are so often different to Christian values

The Apostle Paul wrote,

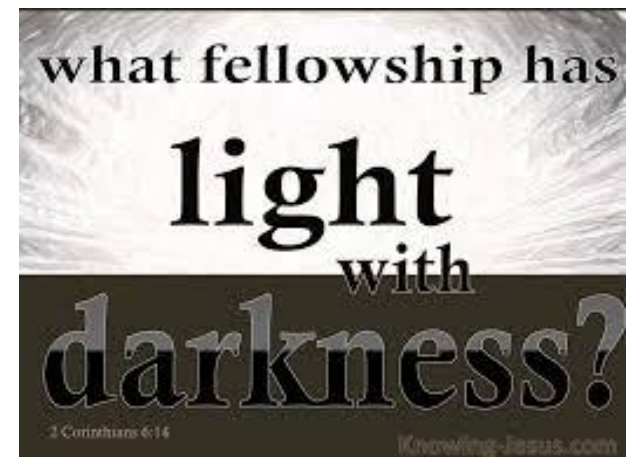
“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God...”

(2 Corinthians 6:14-16)



**Do not be yoked together
with unbelievers**

2 Corinthians 6:14



- We must never allow a fear of being left on the shelf or a fear of being lonely cause us to rush into wrong friendships.
- **We must simply trust God that He knows how to meet our every need in life**
- Our choice of friends will greatly impact our walk with the Lord
- We must refuse to allow friends into our life who will cause us to compromise in our walk with the Lord and to make wrong choices in life



9) We must refuse to dwell on our past failures and disappointments

- Dwelling on our past failures and setbacks will only discourage us and drag us down



- People are far more prone to temptation when they are feeling discouraged



- We must continually CHOOSE to refuse to live with regrets and once and for all let the past go so that we can FULLY EMBRACE the future that God has planned for our life

- The devil will continually remind us of our past failures. He is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10)
- **We must simply refuse to live with regrets**
- No amount of agonizing over the past will change what has happened in the past
- The Apostle Paul was initially persecuting Christians before he himself had a dramatic conversion on the way to Damascus. He could easily have lived with regrets when he came to Christ



- **However the Apostle Paul knew that he could not live with regrets**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do**, *forgetting* those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 3:12-14)**

10) The importance of being planted in a loving bible based church

- Having fellowship with other believers is crucial given the lawless times that we are now living in
- Being accountable to other believers is a great key to remaining strong in a world full of temptations and distractions
- There is a *cleansing affect* when we meet together with other believers as we become accountable both before God and man



The Apostle John wrote, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

Jesus Himself said, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)



- **Being accountable to other Christians through regular fellowship helps us to grow spiritually so that we can remain strong in our faith**

The writer of the book of Hebrews clearly emphasised the importance of fellowshipping with other Christians when he wrote,

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” **(Hebrews 3:12-14)**



- When Christians become disconnected from fellowshiping with other believers they will invariably stray away from God's plan for their lives and become more prone to succumbing to temptations



- We need to be faithful in ALL of our relationships, both with God and with other Christians and be prepared to have other mature believers speak into our lives

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied from above.” (Proverbs 14:14)

“A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.” (Proverbs 18:1)



- If the Devil can offend believers and get them out of fellowship, he is more able to cause them to yield to temptations that can greatly complicate their lives



Jesus Himself warned of people being offended in the times that we are now living in when He said,



**“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.
(Matthew 24:10-11)**

- The Devil knows that if he can isolate a person he is far more able to destroy their life and cause them to yield to temptations that will in the long run cause them much pain and heartache



The Apostle Peter made it clear that we have a very real adversary the Devil, who is out to destroy our faith and lives. Again we will read what the Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8-9, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

- It is in being planted in a local church fellowship that our lives bear much fruit as we receive encouragement and support from other believers and experience God's corporate presence in our fellowship meetings



The Psalmist wrote,

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.” **(Psalm 92:13-15)**



The writer of Hebrews also wrote,

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)



- Other Christians can often be more objective, especially when it comes to matters of the heart, and give us wise counsel not to make wrong choices in life.
- Being connected in fellowship with other loving mature Christians enables us to receive wise counsel and words of caution from others when we are about to drift off track in our walk with the Lord

**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Where there is no counsel, the
people fall; But in the multitude
of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)**



In the book of Proverbs we also read,

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.” (Proverbs 12:15)

“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” (Proverbs 15:22)



- Our God given destiny will always be outworked in connection with other believers
- We all need one another in the Body of Christ. We were never meant to be an island to ourselves

11) We need to always maintain a walk of humility and God dependence

- We need to pray for God to give us the strength and ability to overcome the temptations that we all experience in life

As part of the Lord's prayer we see the following words of Jesus as to how we should pray,

**“And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one. ...”
(Matthew 6:13)**



Jesus also said to His disciples, “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

- Prayer helps us to remain strong in the midst of the temptations and challenges of life**



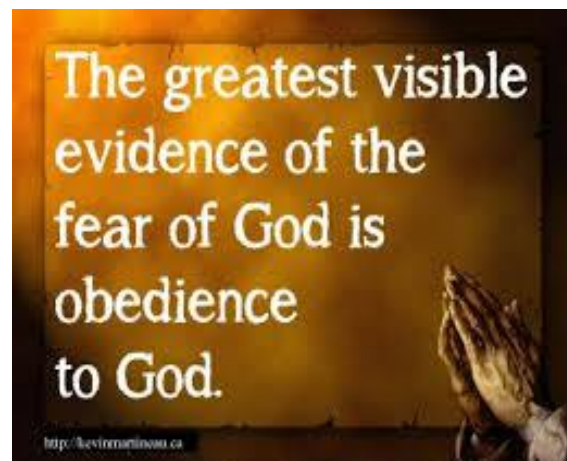
In the book of Hebrews we read,

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

- It is good to always maintain a healthy and reverential fear of God. Having a reverential fear of the LORD helps us to stay within healthy and safe parameters in the way that we live our lives

**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“The fear of the LORD is the
beginning of knowledge, But
fools despise wisdom and
instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7)**



- Having a healthy fear of the LORD helps us to consistently make right choices in life and to resist temptations

- We need to learn to always give all the glory to God when we are experiencing success in our life or ministry. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- The bible makes it clear that pride precedes a fall.

**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.”
(Proverbs 16:18)**

**Be careful about
PRIDE,
it is
DECEPTIVE &
DESTRUCTIVE.**



In the book of Micah we read,
“He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?”
(Micah 6:8)



AND

12) Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit, (the Spirit of truth) is a great key to living an overcoming life and to overcoming temptations

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,
“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

Be filled with the
Spirit
Ephesians 5:18



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

**“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,”
(1 Timothy 4:1)**

- **Being continually filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit is a great key to remaining strong in a world full of temptations and ungodly influences. We are now living in the perilous times that the Apostle Paul wrote about 2 Timothy 3:1-5**





The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But know this, that in the last days
perilous times will come: For men will be lovers
of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud,
blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful,
unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers,
without self control, brutal, despisers of good,
traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure
rather than lovers of God, having
a form of godliness but denying its
power. And from such people turn
away!” **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**



- Being continually filled with the right spirit, the Holy Spirit is a great safeguard against deception entering into our lives and helps to empower us to live an overcoming life



This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:14-16 & 19)

- **So in conclusion;** It is *in applying* the keys and disciplines of this teaching to our life that will enable us to experience the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of and help us to finish our Christian walk strongly



Like the Apostle Paul we want to be able to say at the end of our time here on earth, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

- I will finish now with the most important key to overcoming the temptations that we will all experience in life; **THAT WE ALWAYS MAINTAIN OUR FIRST LOVE FOR JESUS**
- It is our love for Jesus that will cause us to want to glorify God in the way that we live our lives here on earth, so that our light so shines before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven



Jesus Himself said,

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:21)



- It is out of our desire to be intimate with the LORD that we will consistently have the right desires in our heart and the ability to say no to the temptations that come our way in life

King David, the only one referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart wrote, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

- We must simply endeavour to never lose our first love for Jesus by safeguarding our precious relationship with Him



I will finish with the words of King David,

**“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You
in a dry and thirsty land where there is no
water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your
lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall
praise You.” (Psalm 63:1-3)**

