

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

10

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on living an overcoming life in the Holy Ghost.

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The lure of temptation is not a sin, even though it can lead to sin. After all, Jesus was tempted while being on this earth and he did not sin. “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15). Acknowledging what areas of your character need strengthening is part of the key to overcoming temptations that come your way.

When people are tempted, it comes from two main sources:

Man can be tempted by his own evil desires. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (Jas. 1:14-15).

Man can be tempted by the devil. “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil” (Matt. 4:1).

WINNING THE BATTLE

The key to conquering temptation is by “knowing your enemy.” Understanding the nature of temptation is vital for knowing what areas of your life need to be strengthened.

John the Elder provides us with a breakdown of the three most prominent ways temptation comes:

1 John 2:15-16

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Most of our temptations fall under one of the following categories.

- Lust of the Flesh
- Lust of the Eyes
- Pride of Life

LUST OF THE FLESH

The lust of the flesh refers to the temptation that produces physical pleasure from some sinful activity. It satisfies the desires of the flesh. It involves any type of sinful activity that will bring pleasure to the body. Some examples of the “lust of the flesh” include the following:

- Sexual sins
- Drug use (marijuana, pills, cocaine, alcohol, etc.)
- Gossip

- Physical violence and more

Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

LUST OF THE EYES

The lust of the eyes refers to the temptation that allures the eyes to look upon inappropriate things, or the desire to have things that we shouldn't have. In other words, it is to cast our eyes upon something with desire or pleasure, even though God has forbid us to look upon those things.

The sin of coveting is the prime example of the result of succumbing to the lust of the eyes. The 10th commandment that God gave to the Israelites is, “thou shalt not covet.”

PRIDE OF LIFE

The pride of life is that sinful temptation for excess greatness or power that we all feel the temptation to attain. Pride itself is one of the sins that God hates most. It is the sin that made Lucifer (the beautiful angel) turn into Satan (the adversary). Some examples of this sin include the following:

- Desiring to get credit or glory for things that others (or God) do.

- Desiring for others to hold one in excess esteem, “to make a name for ourselves.”
- Desiring to feel valued or more important than others.
- Desiring to have positions of power over others in a way that puffs up one’s own ego for the sake of bragging rights (Jesus said that those who desire to be great should be the greatest servant).

Consider the words of Satan himself, who was so filled with pride that he wanted to be God:

Isaiah 14:14

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

Galatians 5:16

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Matthew 26:41

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Ephesians 6:13-18

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

1 Corinthians 15:33

“Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals” (ESV).

COMMITTED & READY

In this Christian walk, as long as you allow the Holy Spirit to shape you, you will develop into a strong and committed believer.

Temptations will come your way at times, but God will equip and strengthen you to be an overcomer. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to:

- Flee fornication (1 Cor. 6:18).
- Flee also youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:22).
- Flee the love of money. Many have lost their souls in pursuit of money and have placed money ahead of attending church services where they get most of their spiritual nourishment.

1 Timothy 6:10

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

In addition, God gives us a promise about being more than conquerors.

1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Romans 8:37-39

“...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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