

Series: Words of Counsel and Correction

TURNING TEMPTATIONS INTO TRIUMPHS

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12-14

Text:

Introduction:

I want to share some thoughts this evening on an issue that every individual in this service deals with.

That issue is called temptation.

I want to share some thought on Turning Temptations Into Triumphs” – not simply how to overcome temptation, but how to actually use temptation as a means to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord.

Read text: 1 Corinthians 10:12-14

1 Corinthians 10:12-14

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. ¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. ¹⁴ Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Man in general tries to overcome temptation, or deal with temptation in three ways.

- Some Just Give Into It

Some have adopted this philosophy – “Don’t worry about temptation – if it feels good just do it. Whatever is natural is beautiful and whatever is beautiful must be right.”

These people live like animals – they eat and drink what they want, sleep when they want, and are involved in anything that pleases their desires.

An animal lives for self-gratification, self-preservation, and self-propagation.

We have a generation who live like animals today, and why not they have been told that they have evolved from animals.

Some give into temptation, others:

- Some Fight Temptation

But they fight temptation in the strength and energy of the flesh. And they fight and they fail, and they fight and they fail, and they fight and they fail.

Illustration:

It's like the little boy who was sitting under the farmer's apple tree. And the farmer saw him, and said, "What are you trying to do? Steal an apple?" He said, "No sir, I'm trying not to."

A lot of times we try not to but we do.

There is one more way that individuals deal with temptation.

- Some overcome our temptations in the power of Jesus Christ

These learned to Turn Temptation into Triumphs.

Note how we can Turn Our Temptation into Triumph.

1. THE SUBJECTS OF TEMPTATION

Who are the subjects or who is tempted.

All of us at times will be tempted but our text reveals individuals who certainly will be tempted.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

This reveals an individual who has a lot of self-confidence, they have allowed a haughty spirit to develop in their life.

Remember:

Proverbs 16:18-19

¹⁸ Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

The proud are destined for destruction and the haughty for a fall.

The verse tells us *“him that thinketh he standeth”* to *“take heed lest he fall.”*

We also note also:

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

This is a list of some things that God hates and the very first thing listed is a proud look.

Those who think that they standing are in danger of temptation and falling.

Now it's not a sin to be tempted. We know that because the Lord was tempted.

The Bible tells us that He was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ 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.

This verse serves as a warning against pride.

The proud man tempts the devil to tempt him. And, if you think that you cannot fall, you are headed for a fall.

The man who is trying to fight temptation in his own strength also is a man who is headed for a fall.

We have briefly considered the Subjects of Temptation consider secondly:

2. THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ ***There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man***: *but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

You may think that you have a special or a unique temptation.

The truth is – you don't.

All temptation is very common, and we all have the same kinds of temptations from the same sources.

Temptation comes from our own desires and lust.

James 1:14

¹⁴ *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of **his own lust**, and enticed.*

We are tempted when we are drawn away of our own lust, and we are tempted in three realms:

- The World
- The Flesh
- The Devil

The devil is going to tempt you in the area of the spirit, the soul, and the body.

How is the devil going to tempt you in the area of the spirit, the soul, and the body?

He's going to tempt you with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Now, this is going to seem complicated for just a few minutes. So just concentrate, and then, it will all come together.

Note:

A. The World

What is the world? When we say the devil is going to tempt you, or you're going to be tempted with the world, what is the world? Well, we're not talking now about the people of the world. That's not what the Bible means when it says the world—not the people of the world.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

If God loves that world, you ought to love it. It's fine to love the people.

He's not talking about the planet—the rocks, and the trees, and the birds, and the bees, and the fleas—he's not saying that these things are wrong.

No, the material world is good and wonderful. Who made this world? This is my Father's world.

When God swung this planet into space—when God scooped out the seas, and heaped up the mountains, and flung out the sun, moon and stars—God said, "That is good!" So, never let the devil tell you that the material world is evil. It is not evil.

Things are not evil. The material world is not evil. But, the Bible says we are to "love not the world"

1 John 2:15

¹⁵ 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.

Note also:

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

James 4:4

⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

So if it's not the people of the world, and it's not the Earth, it's not the planet, what is the world?"

The word used for world means "a system, an order, a philosophy, that the Bible calls the world.

It is a systemized evil, and we are not to love it.

That is what we mean when we speak of the world.

Next consider:

B. The Flesh

What is the flesh? "Well," you say, "I know what the flesh is. That's what covers your bones." No. I'm not talking about the flesh, in that sense. The Bible doesn't

use the word *flesh* to mean the muscle, and the skin, and the sinew, and the bone.

Note:

Galatians 5:17

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

What does he mean when he says the flesh?

He's talking about an inclination we have to do evil that is in us, an inherited nature to sin.

We sometimes call it the old man. We call it the old nature.

It's the nature we are born with.

It's the nature we received from Adam.

So many times we want to say, "The devil made me sin." Ha! The devil can't make you sin.

If the devil could make you sin, you'd have a perfect alibi. You see, sin is an inside job.

It comes from your flesh.

The devil will help you to sin; the devil will tempt you to sin; the devil will encourage you to sin; but the devil uses your flesh.

Even if there was no devil you and I would still go on sinning.

Illustration:

A little boy called his little sister a bad name, hit her with a broomstick, and spit on her.

The mother questioned the child and said, "You shouldn't have done that. The devil made you do that."

He said, "The devil made me call her a bad name. And, the devil made me hit her with the broomstick. But, spitting on her was my idea."

I think we would be surprised how much of it; is our idea. It comes from that old nature.

Let me quickly consider the third source.

C. The Devil

There is a devil—a real devil. And, the devil wants to get you to sin. And so, the devil uses the flesh to tempt you to sin.

These are the areas that we will be tempted, and temptation is very common, “It’s common to man.”

We have considered the Subjects of Temptation and the Source of Temptation note lastly:

3. THE SUBDUING OF TEMPTATION

Let me just wrap this up, now, and talk to you, for a few minutes, about the subduing of temptation.

How are you going to overcome temptation? Now, the Bible says here, in our verse:

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

God’s word tells us that with the temptation make a way to escape.

There a few things that we can do.

Note:

A. Make no “provision for the flesh.” (Romans 13:14)

Romans 13:14

¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

B. Flee from lusts. (2 Timothy 2:22)

2 Timothy 2:22

²² Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

C. Strengthen the spiritual man. (Ephesians 3:16)

Ephesians 3:16

¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

D. Weaken the old man (Ephesians 4:22)

Ephesians 4:22

²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Close:

Every one of us needs to pay close attention as James teaches us about temptation; we face the danger of our lusts meeting the lures of this sinful world.

The good news is that you don't have to give in to temptation.

You don't have to err, and be led astray.

Turn if you will to Matthew 26.

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. ³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. ³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. ³⁹ And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. ⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. ⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass

away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. ⁴³ *And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.* ⁴⁴ *And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.*

⁴⁵ *Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.* ⁴⁶ *Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.*

Peter was one of the three disciples that the Lord took with Him into the Garden Gethsemane.

While the Lord was praying Peter was sleeping.

The Lord told him:

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Remember it was Peter who disputed with the Lord regarding denying Him.

Matthew 26:35

³⁵ *Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.*

Peter stated he never would deny the Lord.

Remember our text:

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Note in Matthew 26:51-54

Matthew 26:51-54

⁵¹ And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

⁵² Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. ⁵³ Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

We know this was Peter who now cuts the ear off of the servant of the High Priest.

Continue on:

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. ⁷⁰ But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. ⁷¹ And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto

them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷² And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. ⁷³ And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. ⁷⁴ Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

We should follow the Lord's instructions to His disciples in Matthew 26 when it comes to temptation:

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.