

Dear Friends,

Recently, I was asked to do a brief devotion at a men's breakfast. I had several things in mind but none were what you would call 'brief' and then I decided to mention something that has been on my mind for a long time. At Alpha I see so much pain caused by sins, past and present, that are caused by yielding to temptations. In my 50 years of ministry seldom have I heard much about having victory over temptations! I've struggled with giving in to temptation just as everyone, who is honest, will admit. One of my biggest temptations is saying things I shouldn't. I even got in trouble in kindergarten for my big mouth 😬 So here are my thoughts on being successful in the battle with temptation.

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

1. Being tempted is not a sin!!

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2. Giving into temptation can be dangerous!

James 1:12-15 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, (this word is also translated-temptation). for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

3. God has provided THE WAY out of temptation!

1Co 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. The WAY - not a way!

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am **the way**, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

4. Jesus is our helper because He knows what it is like to be tempted yet without yielding to it!

Hebrews 2:17-18 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation (be merciful) for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

Hebrews 4:14-16 Since then 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 is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Alpha has gone through a lot over the past few years but God has been faithful in providing all that is needed 😊 The number of people seeking help has increased recently and so we continue to see God working to help folks through Alpha. We could not do all this without your prayers and gifts! **THANK YOU!!**

Richard