

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Turn Temptations into Triumphs
SERMON REFERENCE:	1 Corinthians 10:12-14
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1732

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Today's message will show us not only how to overcome temptation, but how to actually use temptation as a means to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- b) 1 Corinthians 10:12-14
- c) People, in general, try to overcome temptation or deal with it in three ways:
 - i) Some people simply give in to it.
 - (1) We have a philosophy today that says don't worry about temptation.
 - (a) If it feels good, do it.
 - (b) Whatever is natural is beautiful, and whatever is beautiful must be right.
 - (2) In essence, they live like animals.
 - (a) Animals eat when they want, drink when they want, sleep when they want, mate when they want.
 - (b) Animals live for self-gratification, self-preservation and self-propagation.
 - (c) We have a generation of people who have been taught in school that they evolved from animals.
 - (i) So, we ought not be surprised when they try to live like animals.
 - ii) Some people spend all of their time fighting temptation, but they fight it in the strength and energy of their own flesh.
 - (1) They fight and fail and fight and fail.
 - iii) The right way is neither giving in to temptation nor fighting it in the strength of our flesh, but overcoming temptation through the Lord Jesus Christ and turning temptation into triumphs.

2) THE SUBJECTS OF TEMPTATION (1 CORINTHIANS 10:12)

- a) We are all subject to temptation.
- b) The Lord Jesus was tempted.
 - i) Certainly, Satan would aim his biggest guns at those in the ministry or at spiritual leaders.
- c) We are all faced everyday with temptations in all kinds of areas.
 - i) Pride
 - ii) Materialism
 - iii) Dishonesty
 - iv) Greed
 - v) Lust of the flesh
- d) Being saved does not make us immune to temptation.
- e) It is not a sin to be tempted.
 - i) Jesus was tempted without sin.
 - (1) Hebrews 4:15
- f) 1 Corinthians 10:12
 - i) This is a warning against pride.
 - ii) The proud man tempts the devil to tempt him.

- iii) The person who thinks he cannot fall is headed for a fall.
- iv) The person trying to fight temptation in his own strength is headed for a fall.
- g) If God really loves us, then why doesn't He make it impossible to be tempted?
 - i) Why doesn't God kill the devil?
 - ii) If God were to do these things, then we would lose the power and ability to become overcomers in the Lord Jesus.
 - iii) If there is no opposition, then there is no victory.
 - (1) God has not called us to a life of ease but to a life of victory through the Lord Jesus.
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 2:14

3) THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13)

- a) All temptation is very common, and we all have the same kinds of temptations from the same sources.
- b) There are only three sources of temptation:
 - i) The world
 - ii) The flesh
 - iii) The devil
- c) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - i) The devil will tempt us in the areas of the spirit, soul and body.
- d) We are tempted by the world.
 - i) What is the world?
 - (1) We are not talking about the people of the world.
 - (a) John 3:16
 - (i) If God loves that world, then we ought to love it, also.
 - (2) It does not mean the planet.
 - (a) God made this world.
 - (i) The rocks, the trees, the birds, etc.
 - 1. These things are not wrong.
 - (b) When God created the world, He said it was good.
 - (i) Genesis 1:10-25
 - (c) The material world is not evil.
 - ii) The Bible tells us not to love the world.
 - (1) 1 John 2:15
 - (2) Romans 12:2
 - (3) James 4:4
 - (a) The word "enmity" here means "warfare."
 - iii) The word for "world" is the word "cosmos."
 - (1) It means "a system", "an order."
 - (2) There is a system, an order, a philosophy that the Bible calls "the world."
 - (a) It is entrenched and systematized evil, and we are not to love it.
 - (b) 1 Peter 3:3-4

- (i) The word “adorning” is the word that is translated “world” in over one hundred other places in the Bible.
 - 1. It’s the word “cosmos.”
 - 2. It speaks of the woman putting her face in order.
 - (ii) The author is not saying that it’s wrong to wear cosmetics or jewelry.
 - 1. God speaks of His saints as His jewels.
 - 2. He talks of that city in Heaven as a city made up of jewels.
 - (iii) He is saying don’t let it be the world, the order, of the hairdresser or fashion store or jeweler that molds you.
 - 1. Don’t let that be what motivates, guides or controls you.
 - 2. Don’t let that be your world.
 - iv) The system may be the world of sports, politics, business, etc.
 - (1) If number one in your life is not the Lord Jesus Christ, then you have bought into a system.
 - v) The world is the external foe.
- e) We are tempted by the flesh.
 - i) Galatians 5:17
 - ii) The word “flesh,” when used to speak about temptation, is an inclination within us to do evil.
 - (1) It is an inherited predisposition to sin.
 - (2) We sometimes call it the “old man” or the “old nature.”
 - (a) It is the Adamic nature.
 - (3) We were born with it.
 - iii) The devil cannot make us sin.
 - (1) If he could, then we would have a perfect alibi.
 - (2) He will help us to sin, he will tempt us to sin and encourage us to sin.
 - (a) Even if there were no devil, we would go on sinning.
 - (i) We could do it all by ourselves.
 - iv) This is the internal foe.
- f) We are tempted by the devil.
 - i) This is the infernal foe.
 - ii) There is a real devil.
 - (1) He wants to get us to sin.
 - iii) He uses the flesh to tempt us to sin.
 - iv) Here is the anatomy of a temptation:
 - (1) Think of the world as a match.
 - (2) Think of your flesh as a pool of gasoline.
 - (3) Think of the devil as someone who strikes the match and throws it.

4) THE SEAT OF TEMPTATION

- a) Where will we be tempted?
- b) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - i) We are a spirit, soul and body.

- (1) We are made in the image of a triune God, and we have a triune nature.
- (2) You are one individual, but there are three parts to the human nature.
- c) When we are tempted, we will be tempted in either the spirit, soul or body.
 - i) If we don't understand this, then we won't know exactly how to fight.
- d) The world will tempt us primarily in the area of our soul.
 - i) The Greek word for "soul" is the word from which we get "psyche."
 - ii) Your soul is your mind, emotions and your will.
 - (1) Your psyche, your ego and self.
 - iii) With our soul, we have psychological life.
 - iv) This world (this cosmos, system), will primarily tempt us in the area of our soul, or ego.
 - (1) If you are a worldly Christian, then you're on an ego trip.
 - v) An example of this (the world tempting the soul) is found in the book of Genesis with Abraham and Lot.
 - (1) Genesis 13:1-12
 - (a) Why did Lot choose the land he chose and pitch his tent toward Sodom and Gomorrah?
 - (i) He wanted more grass for his cattle.
 - (ii) He didn't need more cattle.
 - (iii) He was already wealthy; he was just keeping score.
 - 1. He wanted to be a big shot.
 - 2. He was trying to feed his soul on the things of this world.
 - vi) This world system tells us that we have to have more.
 - (1) The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life.
- e) We are tempted in the area of our flesh.
 - i) The flesh is not the body, but it wars against the body.
 - ii) The flesh is that predisposition to sin.
 - iii) The body will be subject to physical temptations.
 - (1) In the areas of appetite, lust, laziness, violence, etc.
 - iv) The flesh uses the body as a vehicle of expression.
 - v) An example of the flesh tempting the body involves King David.
 - (1) 2 Samuel 11:1-4
 - vi) The external foe wars against the soul; the internal foe wars against the flesh.
- f) The devil, the infernal foe, primarily wars against our spirit.
 - i) What is the difference between our soul and our spirit?
 - (1) Our soul is the sense of self-consciousness.
 - (2) Our spirit is the sense of God-consciousness.
 - ii) We know God through our spirit.
 - (1) John 4:24
 - (2) Romans 8:16
 - (3) The spirit in man is that vehicle of communication, worship, praise and spiritual knowledge.

- iii) The devil wants to cut us off from God.
- iv) Simon Peter is an example of the devil tempting the spirit.
 - (1) Luke 22:31-32
 - (2) His faith faltered.

5) THE SUBDUING OF TEMPTATION

- a) How are we going to overcome temptation?
 - i) 1 Corinthians 10:13
- b) Against the lust of the flesh, the key word is flight.
 - i) The flesh is the old, Adamic nature within us.
 - ii) The Bible says to flee fornication.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - iii) The Bible says to flee youthful lusts.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 2:22
 - iv) We are not told to fight this type of temptation but to flee.
 - v) There's an old motto that says, "He who would not fall down ought not to walk in slippery places."
 - (1) Don't put yourself in potentially compromising situations.
 - (2) Don't put garbage in your mind.
 - (3) Proverbs 6:27
 - (4) If alcohol is your temptation, stay away from it.
 - vi) When Potiphar's wife tempted Joseph, he ran out of there and left his coat behind him.
 - (1) Genesis 39:7-12
 - (2) He saturated that place with his absence.
- c) Against the world, the key word is faith.
 - i) 1 John 5:4
 - ii) We are not told to fight worldliness.
 - iii) Faith makes God real to us.
 - iv) 1 John 2:15
 - (1) The reason he loves the world is because the love of the Father is not in him.
 - (a) Worldliness is simply a symptom that the love of the Father is not in us.
 - v) If you find yourself being worldly and this world is trying to squeeze you into its mold, then you have not fallen into love with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
 - (2) Look to Jesus.
 - vi) Let Jesus Christ satisfy you.
- d) Against the infernal foe, the devil, the key word is fight.
 - i) The Bible says that we are to fight the good fight of faith.
 - (1) 1 Timothy 6:12
 - ii) James 4:7

- (1) Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - (a) We're not told to run from him.
- iii) We're told to fight, not in our strength, but in the Lord's strength.
- iv) The devil will not leave us alone until we resist him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- v) Revelation 12:11
 - (1) The devil is not afraid of our intentions or our good will, but he fears the blood of Jesus Christ.
- vi) We bring the blood of Jesus against him; we bring the Word of God against him.
 - (1) We bring our commitment to the Lord Jesus against him.
- vii) When the devil comes after us, we don't have to take it.
 - (1) Put your sin under the blood of Jesus and understand the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) When temptation comes to you, don't be on the defensive; be on the offensive.
 - (a) Tell the devil that you bring the Word against him, the blood against him, and Jesus against him.
 - (b) Resist him in the name of Almighty God.
 - (c) Tell him that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, it belongs to God, and he is trespassing on your Father's property, and to be gone in the name of Jesus.
- viii) Ephesians 6:10
- ix) The devil does not want us to understand the power that we have to overcome temptation.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) In order to overcome temptation, you must first have a living, vital relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16