

TEMPTATION & SUFFERING

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Main Idea: how to overcome temptation

INTRODUCTION:

Young child learning to walk must be careful

Focuses on every step, goes slow, still easy to lose balance and fall
As grows older, stronger, more experienced still danger of falling but less
Always danger of tripping and falling!

NEW CHRISTIAN easily tripped up – grow so less danger

WALK DOWN ROAD, Jesus at end of street, false-fronts on either side to get us distracted, turned aside

LIES Satan uses to appeal to flesh

Get eyes off Jesus/Holy Spirit and onto self
Interfere with sp growth

Spiritually true, too

Satan in control of world system, all against sp growth
Satan tries best to keep new bel from growing
Esp new bel hit hardest
Get eyes off Jesus and onto self!

I. TEMPTATION

(talk about temptation: what it is, why it happens, what to do about it, etc.)

Illegitimate way to meet a legitimate need

1. Temptation isn't sin – Matthew 5:27

Matt 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

2. God doesn't tempt us to sin – James 1:13-15

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

Y IN THE ROAD – go either direction

TEMPT – by Satan to sin, not trust God, meet own needs

TEST – by God, opportunity to trust, grow, see Him work

3. All can be resisted with God ! Cor 10:13

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

4. Example: Joseph (OT) Genesis 39:1-20

LUST – Potiphar’s wife

SELF-PITY – all goes wrong again and again, REVENGE – forgave wife, brother

Gen 39:6-20

David & Bathsheba *II Samuel 11:1-4*

5. Cleansing –I John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

III. SUFFERING

A. ATTITUDE TO SUFFERING

a. UNBELIEVER

1. Consequences of sin in the universe

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you ...Genesis 3:17, 18

2. Consequences of own sin, folly

FREE WILL CHOICES in which we reap the consequences

Physical care of body, financial misuse of money, treat others wrong

COMPANY spends \$1 on computers, expert installs them, teaches how to use

They leaves, company throws instructional manuals away, does whatever

Things go wrong – blame manufacturer!

3. To Bring to salvation

b. BELIEVER

1. DESERVED SUFFERING

a. Consequences of sin in the universe, us all guilty with Adam

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you ...Gen3:17, 18

b. Break rules of government, nature

Disobey laws of nature, gov.

FREE WILL CHOICES in which we reap the consequences

Physical care of body, financial misuse of money, treat others wrong

PETER: Suffer for Righteousness sake, not for wrongdoing.

c. God's discipline for sin

Disobey laws of God and don't confess

To make us more like Jesus

2. UNDESERVED SUFFERING

compare/contrast **discipline & punishment**
like parent to child

There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

Judgment for sin: paid for on cross

He who has begun a good work in you will carry it out until the day of Christ Jesus.

Workman stranded on top of building, drops stones to get attention, bigger and bigger, until look up.

Shepherd in Palestine - break sheep's leg to cause him to trust God and depend on Him

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Rev. 3:19

The Lord disciplines those He loves, and corrects everyone he accepts as a son. Heb 12:6

Blessed is the man whom God corrects, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty Job 5:17

DAVID: Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I have kept thy word.

a. CONFLICT BETWEEN SATAN & GOD Job 1-2

b. PRESENTS GOD'S MESSAGE Hosea

What we go through for God teaches others @ Him

c. TEACHES OBEDIENCE TO GOD Heb 5:8 Phil 2:8

Jesus learned obedience by the things he suffered. Heb 5:8

God made Jesus perfect (mature) through suffering. Hebrews 2:10

d. CAUSES US TO LEAN ON GOD'S GRACE

Paul's thorn in the flesh

"My grace is sufficient for you", for when I am weak then I am strong. Paul

e. BRINGS CLOSER TO CHRIST I Pt 1:7-8 Isa 49:2

Makes us more like Jesus:

DIAMONDS

REFINING METALS IN FIRE

SMELTING DROSS OUR OF GOLD

f. DEMONSTRATES GOD'S POWER

John 13:16; 16:33; I Peter 1:13

As He works through us

g. MANIFESTS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

II Cor 4:8-11 Eph 5

As we respond by HS within

h. HELPS OTHERS WHO SUFFER II Cor 1:3-4

TRANSITION

- I. Why doesn't God destroy suffering?
- II. What should be our attitude to suffering?

B. RESPOND TO SUFFERING

a. IF UNBELIEVER

Salvation

b. IF BELIEVER IN SIN

Confess sin

God turns suffering to good

All things work for the good of those who love God - Romans 8:28

c. IF BELIEVER AND NOT IN SIN

'OPPOSITE WORLD CONCEPT'

'He who seeks to save his life will lose it, but he who loses his life for My sake will save it.'

'It is more blessed to give than to receive'

'to live is Christ, to die is gain' – Paul

'I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me'

accumulate wealth by giving it away

overcome suffering by embracing it

1. Make sure you are in God's will

Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. I Peter 4:19

2. Realize it is for our benefit

Every branch that bears fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:2

All things work together for Good for the benefit of those who love Him. Romans 8:28

3. Later we will know better why He allows it

Jesus said, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." John 13:7

4. Don't be ashamed of suffering, difficulties

If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed but praise God that you bear that name. I Peter 4:16

5. Trust God and draw closer to Him

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

BLESSING THROUGH TRIALS

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. Ps. 126:5

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem. Isa. 66:13

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

You know the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:3

No temptation/testing has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted/tested beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted/tested, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Cor. 10:13

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield. Ps. 91:4

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble I will deliver him & honor him. With long life will I satisfy him & show him my salvation. Psalm 91:14-16

TRANSITION

What should be our attitude to suffering?

How should we respond to suffering?

When will suffering be gone?

C. WHEN WILL SUFFERING BE GONE?

When Jesus returns, not before

CLOSING PRAYER