



# ***Faith Victory Report***

AUGUST 2017

## **How to resist temptation part 3**

All of us ought to more vigorously resist temptation out of our love for the Lord. There are a number of scriptures that give us good reasons to resist temptation and some powerful revelations about how to do so.

There is a wonderful reward awaiting us for vigorously resisting temptation according to Revelations 2:10 and James 1:12,

### **Revelation 2:10**

**Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

### **James 1:12**

**[12] Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**

We know that we can resist temptation because we are NEVER tempted beyond our ability to resist.

**1Corinthians 10:13** says:

**[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.**

Resisting temptation is one way we show the Lord that we do really love Him according to the following verses.

**John 14:15... if you love me keep my commandments.**

**John 14: 21... he that hath my commandments and keepeth them he it is that loveth me.**

**John 15:10... if you keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love even as I have kept my father's**



**commandments and abide in his love.**

But, what is temptation? We have defined temptation as pressure that is brought to bear on your being – spirit, soul and body - to do what you know violates God's Word. The reason for temptation, we said, is to challenge your love of God and love for God,

We said that in order to resist temptation, you should avoid it. How? Avoid lust. What is lust? Lust is a strong inordinate desire for a vice. We said that lust is incubated in the womb of time spent imagining a vice! Desire comes about due to inordinate time investments in your thought life or in your imaginations. In other words, if you spend

enough time thinking about it or imagining it, you will develop a desire for it.

So, how does one avoid lust? We said you must deny the vice time. **James 1:13-14** says:  
**[13] Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: [14] But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.**

The good news is that Jesus said temptation can be resisted. In **Matthew 5:27-28**, Jesus said:

**[27] Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: [28] But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**

Jesus said it is possible to look without lusting. What is the difference between “looking” and “lusting?” Time. **Time spent looking tends to cause “looking” to become “lusting.”**

**Job 31:1, 7** say:

**[1] I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid? [7] If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes...**

Job says to make a covenant with your eyes not to look too long so that you don't enter into lust because your heart will follow your eyes if you look too long and lust will form in your heart!

So, to resist temptation, avoid lust. To avoid lust, deny the vice time investments.

**The second thing you must do to resist temptation is to run from it!** Do like Joseph and run from the Cougar or its male equivalent! Joseph's example is quite appropriate in our day given that sexual temptation is probably the most prevalent and ever-present temptation that men ...and women face!

**Genesis 39:7-12**

**[7] And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. [8] But he refused... [12]**

**And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.**

Run and get out of there like Joseph! Don't stay and think that you can pray your way out of the situation. The best time to have prayed is before the temptation showed up. Jesus said in **Luke 22:40-46** that we should pray so we do not enter or succumb to temptation. Jesus, Himself, did so in the Garden of Gethsemane. As a response to His prayers, the Bible says that an angel was dispatched to strengthen Him at the moment of temptation and He resisted it successfully.

**The time of temptation** is a time when the devil and your flesh - the untrained part of it - and your mind - the unrenewed part of it - have ganged up to assault your spirit! If you have not taken the time before this assault occurs to strengthen your spirit, it is probably going to yield to the assault!

Praying at the time of temptation is like trying to build a tornado shelter during a tornado! When the temptation is at hand, it is time to take action, not pray, in most cases.

One action to take when being tempted is to run! Hence Joseph ran! **Trying to reason with the tempter, temptress or tempting thought will be fruitless!** Joseph tried that. It did not work. He had to run, and he did!

So, get ready to run! **Run**, as in change the channel! Don't sit there and kid yourself by saying “Look at that! Can you imagine that! What is this world coming to!”

**Run**, as in do not subscribe to certain channels on cable or satellite...you know what I mean! I am sure you do! **Run**, as in make sure your wife or husband knows the password on your laptop, tablet and phone. In other words, set parameters or boundaries.

**Run**, as in avoid associations of friends or acquaintances that tempt you or make it harder for you to resist temptation. Or that make it easier for you to yield to temptation or get entangled.

**Run**, as in -avoid places that make it easier to yield or get entangled...such as flat roof tops of the

King's palace if you are King David! **2 Samuel 11:1-4**

**The third thing you must do to resist temptation is to imitate Jesus! Do like Jesus!**

**Hebrews 12:1** counsels us to lay aside every **weight** and the sin which does too trips us up,

**Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...**



**Fatigue** and **stress** are examples of such weight. Fatigue is **physical exhaustion** and fatigue puts your body in commanding position over your spirit and your soul! Stress is **emotional exhaustion** and it puts your soul in commanding position over your spirit! **Fatigue and stress make it less likely that you will successfully resist temptation.**

How? You are a 3-part being. You are a spirit, you have a soul and you live in a physical body according to **1Thessalonians 5:23**:

**And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Your soul is the bridge between your spirit, which is the real you, and your body which is your magnificent housing. Your soul is made up your **mind or intellect** (your thinker) your **will** (your decision maker), your **emotions** (your feeler) and your **imagination** (your seer or imager).

Your spirit is supposed to be strong (fed by God's Word) enough to dictate to your soul and body to choose the godly option every time. Well...fatigue and stress feed your soul and body an ungodly diet that strengthens them in an ungodly manner to rebel against, and resist, the dictates of your spirit. This situation makes you vulnerable to temptation.

Fatigue and stress will make you irritable, impatient, vulnerable and exploitable by the devil. You will not be sober or vigilant regarding the devil's devices, tricks and traps. Fatigue and stress make it easier for you to be devoured, that is, fall into temptation, instead of resisting it.

**1 Peter 5:6-9** says:

**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [9] Whom resist stedfast in the faith...**

**The cure for fatigue is rest...not entertainment!**

Yet, how often do we all reach for the TV remote at the end of the day! There are many wonderful programs to watch on TV, of course, but the fact is that you are more likely to yield to the flesh when you are tired at the end of the day and watching television, than not.

Jesus knew about the importance of rest and He practiced it. We must do likewise.

**John 8:2** says:

**[2] And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.**

Jesus came early in the morning to the temple, which means He was up earlier than that! Most people who are up early in the morning are also in bed early in the night! Consequently, they give their bodies plenty of sleep and rest. Jesus was like that. We should be likewise.

**Mark 4:35-38**

**[35] And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side... [37] And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. [38] And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow...**

Jesus took a nap in the ship! This was His custom. Had to be. You don't do something like that for the first time in the middle of a storm in a boat! It was a power-nap and was designed to rejuvenate His body and keep fatigue, exhaustion and stress at bay, making it easier to successfully resist temptation.

Jesus also taught the disciples to incorporate proper rest into their daily schedules. **Mark 6:30-31** says:

**[30] And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.**

**[31] And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.**

**The cure for stress is reliance on the Father and casting our cares on Him.** Jesus knew and practice that too. We must follow His example.

**John 5:19, 30**

**[19] ...Jesus and said unto them...The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. [30] I can of mine own self do nothing... but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

Working hard is one thing. A whole bunch of self-effort expended in pushing and pulling every which way to get stuff to happen on our own is another. That usually leads to both physical and mental fatigue, which will zap you of the spiritual strength necessary to resist temptation.

Jesus also considered the pay-off if one resists temptation! **Hebrews 12:2** says:

**Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

We must take the long-term view when we are propositioned by temptation. Jesus did. Sin obviously has pleasure...or no one would be doing it! Actually, the Bible says so in **Hebrews 11:25**.

But, the pleasure is only for a fleeting moment when you take the long-term view.

There is the **pain of regret** after the family would have been torn apart, your name has become a proverb for vice, your witness is gone and you have left a less than worthy legacy for the children and grandchildren.

There are also **natural consequences** to consider, of course, including financial ruin or early physical death. God forgives, of course, and forgets. People may never forgive and/or forget. We must learn to ask the question, **"is it worth it?"** *To be continued.*

# 2017

## THE YEAR OF OVER-THE TOP!

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Service times**

***Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites  
Longhorn Conference Room  
IH 35 @ Parmer Lane, Austin Texas***

***Sundays 9:30 am  
Worship and Teaching of the Word***

***We expect the Visitation, Manifestation and  
Demonstration of the Holy Spirit in every service!***

***You are invited!***

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