

OVERCOMING THE DEVIL

Int.

1. Aim: To show some things we must do in order to overcome the temptations of life.
2. Text - I Pet. 5:8 NKJV "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.:"
 - a. Sober - be awake and vigilant - watch
 - b. The Devil is present
 - c. Ready to devour - destroy, gulp entire, swallow up
3. Temptation is the tool of the devil
4. Song "Yield not to Temptation"

Discussion

I. WHY DO WE YIELD?

- A. Follow afar off
 1. Mt. 26:58 NKJV "But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end."
 2. Peter denied the Lord because he did not stay close
 3. John stayed with Jesus and he did not deny him
 4. Sometimes we are afar off and it cause us to yield

- B. Get in the wrong crowd
 1. Judas was in the crowd of priests who plotted to kill Jesus
 2. Mt. 26:47 "And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people."

3. Jn. 18:3 "Judas then, having received a band [of men] and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons."
4. Mk. 14:43 "And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders."
5. This was an unhealthy spiritual environment and it caused him to yield
6. Peter joined the group around the fire - this helped influence him to deny the Lord
7. I Cor. 15:33 ASV "Be not deceived: evil companions corrupt good morals" -
ESV "Bad company ruins good morals"

C. Over confidence

1. Mt. 26:31-35 NKJV "Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." 34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.."
2. Peter felt he would never fall - he bragged
3. I Cor. 10:12 NKJV "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

II. DOES ANY GOOD COME FROM TEMPTATIONS?

- A. Temptations are the file which rub off the rust of our self- confidence
- B. Endured temptations help us
 - 1. Prove us
 - 2. Mature us
 - 3. Blesses us
- C. Temptations do not make a man weak, they just show what he IS .
- D. What we are comes to light when we are free to do as we like
- E. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Jas. 1:12 "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."
 - 1. Endure = Persevere, have fortitude, to remain
 - 2. Not to yield
 - 3. Blessed = happy

III. HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS

- A. Be aware of temptations
 - 1. I Pet. 5:8
 - 2. Peter was self- confident
 - 3. Remember that even Christ was tempted - Mt. 4:1-11
 - 4. "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you." I Pet. 4:12 ESV

B. Remember the example of Job.

1. Jas. 5:11 "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."
2. The Devil tempted him:
 - a. Took much of his wealth and belongings
 - b. Destroyed his family
 - c. Ruined his health
 - d. Friends turned against him - miserable comforters
3. Yet job endured and sinned not
4. He is an example for us to follow - if he can endure, so can I

C. Resist the devil

1. Jas. 4:7 "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
2. He will flee - - if we will resist.
3. Do not give in to the temptation - No degree of temptation justifies any degree of sin!
4. I Cor. 10:13 ESV "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
 - a. Common
 - b. Able to endure
 - c. Way to escape

D. Draw near to God

1. James 4:8 NKJV "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."
2. Get close to God and he will get close to you and together you can resist the temptations of the devil.
3. II Pet. 2:9a NKJV "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations,"
4. He who will fight the Devil with his own weapons must not wonder if he finds him an overmatch.
5. How do we get close to God?
 - a. Be a Christian - obey - Study. read
 - b. Worship faithfully
 - c. Serve him by serving others
6. Gal. 2:20 Christ liveth in me "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

E. Arm yourself

1. Eph. 6:11 'Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.'
2. Eph. 6:12 - 18 - Christian's armour
 - a. Helmet of salvation
 - b. Breastplate of righteousness
 - c. Loins girt with truth
 - d. Shield of faith
 - e. Sword of the Spirit
 - f. Feet shod with preparation of gospel

F. Pray to God

1. Mt. 6:13a "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:..."
2. Mt. 26:41 ESV "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation."
3. If we pray that God will lead us out of temptations and yet we rush into them, it is like putting our hand in the fire and praying that it will not be burned.

Conclusion

1. Temptations will come to all of us
2. They do not make us weak, they show what we are.
3. Enduring temptations make us ready to enter heaven.
4. We are at war with the Devil - We can win
5. The only way to overcome is to resist the Devil - and draw near to God - Jas. 4:7-8 And pray to God for help in overcoming.
6. "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." Jas. 1:12

FULL UP NO VACANCY

I've got a brand new sign with bright red letters hanging on the door of my heart.
 The Lord moved in, I've never felt better, my life has changed I've made a new start.
 So I'll let the Devil know he is not wanted any more when he comes a calling on me.
 Oh how mad he's going to be when he begins to read. Full up, no vacancy.

I traveled down a road of disappointments and faced each new day idle and blue.
 But I opened up my heart and the light of the Lord came shining
 the whole world changed the night that I "obeyed." (AVP)
 ("prayed through" - these words on the original are false doctrine.)
 The day I let the Lord come in.

The Devil said the world was a rainbow, and I would find my fortune around the bend,
 But all I ever found was heartache and trouble, until the day I let the Lord come in.

I've got a brand new sign with bright red letters hanging on the door of my heart.
 The Lord moved in I've never felt better my life has changed I've made a new start.
 So I'll let the Devil know he is not wanted any more when he comes a calling on me.
 Oh how mad he's going to be when he begins to read, Full Up No Vacancy.
 Full Up No Vacancy
 Full Up No Vacancy

(Sung by Hal Kennedy)