

4-30-23
OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Intro: Last week we tried to share some principles of Understanding temptation.

First we defined what a temptation is.

Satan is in fact called the "Tempter" Matt. 4:3 Without a tempter there is no temptation.

A temptation is a solicitation to sin, or do wrong or evil. To do something that you should not do. A solicitation to sin.

A temptation is an allurements, a trap, an enticement.

HOW DO WE OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS

- I. WE DO SO BY RECOGNIZING THERE ARE TEMPTATIONS FROM WITHOUT..
- II. WE DO SO BY RECOGNIZING THERE ARE TEMPTATION THAT COME FROM WITHIN..
- III. WE DO SO BY RECOGNIZING THAT WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE CHRIST..

These two work together.. but the greatest problem is the temptations that come from within..

James 1:13 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:

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Jesus could be tempted from without.. but he was never tempted from within..

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.

Think about the extent to which Jesus was tempted. He fasted 40 days and was weak to the point of death. He had the power to turn stones into bread, yet he didn't because he was probably commanded of the Father not to. So to make the bread to satisfy his hunger would have been sin. None of us could withstand that kind of temptation.

Yet Jesus knows what it is like to be tempted. He was tempted in every point like we were.. yet without sin.

Three main areas of temptations are the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Jesus was tempted to the max in these three areas.

The Lust of the eyes, is to covet things in this world that we see.... Satan flashed before Jesus' eyes all the material things of this world if he would compromise and he did not succumb to that temptation.

The Lust of the flesh involves physical desires that we yield to outside of the will of God.

The pride of life.. is when you think yourself too good to suffer humility to do the will of God. Is there anyone who was so great like Jesus who was so high and then was brought so low? Think about the how humbling it was for Christ to die for us. So our Lord was tempted in the area of the pride of life..

So to deal with temptations the easiest thing to deal with is those that come from without..

This morning I want to talk about dealing with temptations and overcoming temptations.

I. Recognizing And Dealing with the Temptations That Come From Without:

1. Deal With Temptations That Come From Without by Taking the Door of Escape that God provides

I Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

I Corinthians 10:13 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].

I Corinthians give us this promise that God is faithful and with the temptation He will provide a door of escape. The way to avoid these temptations is to take the door of escape.

The best way to avoid temptation is to know that you are vulnerable to temptation.

I Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Many times when we give ourselves more credit than we deserve, and think ourselves stronger and more spiritual than we are, we are in essence leading ourselves right into temptation. We are in essence making a choice to sin. When we think more highly of

ourselves than we are, we are not taking the door of escape. When we say, I would never do that, the Bible says take heed lest you fall.

Sometimes, instead of praying lead me not into temptation..

We make decisions that lead us right into temptation's way..

How do we take the door of escape?

The Bible says, that God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able.

If you are a child of God
If you love God..

We have this promise

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

God is in control of all things that come into your life.. even the trials and temptations that we face.

The decisions we make in life either lead us into temptation...
Or the decisions we make lead us to the door of escape from temptation..

The Scripture says that God is faithful:

I Corinthians 10:13 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].

Any trial any temptation that comes your way is not unique to you. Others have faced these things.

You cannot say, no one knows what I am going through. That is not true.

There is no temptation that has come your way but it is common to man, others have faced these temptations, and many have overcome these same temptations.

God knows you, he knows what you can handle, and there is this promise that he will not lead you into trials and temptations that you cannot endure.

Now he also will provide a way of escape.. The question is

WHAT ARE THE WAYS OF ESCAPE?

2. THE WAY OF ESCAPE COMES THROUGH DECISIONS WE MAKE..

Just don't go down that path.. Make decisions that lead you from the path of temptation.

I remember years ago that I was interviewed for a job and the owner of the business who was interviewing me was explaining the training process. He said part of the training was that they go out to some place get a motel room together and have a good time and learn the business. He stressed however, the good time part, which I was not into at all. I was happily married and knew all about the party life mentality. If I took that job I knew I would be violating Scripture and putting myself in a situation that could lead to all kinds of temptation. So I refused to take the job. I was delivered from temptation.

I had another job opportunity when I first got saved, that their methods of selling were questionable. In the interview the man interviewing me told me that some people had a problem with their sales presentation. He had a hard time explaining it but soon the more I probed the more I discovered basically their sales pitch was filled with downright deceit. I immediately told the fellow the job was not for me. The place where I would work was in the middle of the city and when I left the store I had to take an elevator down. I had two hoodlums following me and I did not get on the elevator and took the stairs into the crowd of people. I knew the way that gang of young men were looking at me that they were looking to jump me. God verified that by not taking that job I was delivered from more than one temptation and evil.

There are decisions that we make that either deliver us into temptation or deliver us from temptation. God will show us the door of escape as we walk in his truth and his word.

3. Sometimes the door of escape is to just flee temptations:

I Corinthians 6:18 **Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

I Corinthians 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **flee from idolatry.**

I Timothy 6:10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil:** which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I Timothy 6:11 **But thou, O man of God, flee these things;** and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

II Timothy 2:22 **Flee also youthful lusts;** but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Did not Joseph flee temptation when Potopher's wife set her eyes on him?

4. One of the greatest doors of escape is to follow principles of Biblical separation

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,

II Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Remember the devil was the one who tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. The first temptation came from the tempter himself. There are people who are children of God and there are people who are children of the devil. Those who are of the devil will drag you down, tempt you to sin.

So the door of escape in this case is simple. Don't yoke up with people who are children of the devil.

Now God has not called us to be recluses, but we need to be careful about our associations. When people have a negative spiritual influence on us, we need to maintain a distance from them.

Your associations can drag you down and some people will be like the serpent in the garden. Satan's children do Satan's bidding.

REMEMBER THIS:

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

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II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,

What is an unequal yoke? Unequally yoked together is one Greek word:

heterozugeo, het-er-od-zoog-eh'-o; from a comp. of 2087 and 2218; to yoke up differently, i.e. (fig.) to associate discordantly:-unequally yoke together with.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

□heteros, het'-er-os; of uncert. affin.; (an-, the) other or different:-altered, else, next (day), one, (an-) other, some, strange.

□zugos, dzoo-gos'; from the root of zeugnumi (to join, espec. by a "yoke"); a coupling, i.e. (fig.) servitude (a law or obligation); also (lit.) the beam of the balance (as connecting the scales):-pair of balances, yoke.

Two Greek words

Heteros Means to be different strange
Zugo Means to couple together

There are two different spirits in this world. There is the Holy Spirit and there is the spirit of this world, which is controlled by Satan who is the god of this world. The god of this world blinds people.

The greatest Yoke is marriage..
Another Yoke is a partnership..
Another Yoke is close relation or friendship....

Be careful of those who influence you, wrong friends can help you or drag you down.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Proverbs 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

Proverbs 24:2 For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

My old boss (Joe Grinzi) he and I used to do promotionals together. He used to say, my wife says she always knows who I was working with that week. I said, what do you mean.. He said, when I work with you all week my wife notices I talk different.

Now listen.. either your influencing others or they are influencing you..

There are some people that after you work with them a while you start talking like them. That is OK if they are Christians. It is not OK if they are not.

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

You can win someone to the Lord when they drag you down into the mud with them.

I Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

When you follow Biblical principles of separation this becomes a door of escape even unto itself.

5. *Sometimes a door of escape is to resist Satan...*

Some temptations are in fact attacks of Satan on your mind ..

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

I Peter 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

The truth is that our enemy has not changed all these years.

The three areas of temptation have not changed..

The three great enemies that we face in the area of temptations are:

THE WORLD: Enticements, are many.. these bombard us every day..

THE FLESH: Enticements within.. weakness, passions that need to be subject

THE DEVIL: A real person that has access to our thoughts..

The devil works in our minds, he is able to implant thoughts that are unbiblical thoughts that are wrong. Thoughts that will lead us to wrong actions.

The greatest example of resisting the devil is found in Matthew 4 where Jesus was tempted of the devil ..

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Matthew 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Luke 4:13 And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Notice the devil needs to be resisted continually .. he departed from Jesus for a little season.

How did Jesus resist the devil? He did so with the word of God. Each attack of Satan needs to be met with the word of God.

How to resist the devil

There is no greater way to resist the devil than the way Jesus did so.

First you need to know the Word of God. Memorize the word of God. Meditate on the word of God. Resist the devil with the word of God.

The devil tempted Jesus in the area of putting the desires of the flesh above God.. He quoted

Deut. 8:3 Man doeth not live by bread alone..

The devil tempted Jesus in the area of Pride.... He said if you be the son of God.. demand that the angels protect you.. after all think about how important you are.. He quoted

Deut 6:16 ... Thou shalt not tempt the Lord your God..

When Satan showed him all the glory of the world and the Kingdoms and said he could have all that if he worshipped him.. he quoted..

Deut 6:13 Deut. 5:7 Thou shalt worship the Lord God only

The Bible says that Satan works in a person's mind.. II Cor 4:4 Satan blinds peoples minds..

Satan can fill a person's heart with wrong ideas.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land?

Satan can blind a person's mind, he can fill a person's heart, he can tempt a person through the passions of their flesh.. These are all his temptations that he can do today in the lives of even believers.

How do you resist these temptations? Now it is not possible to flee them, you must resist them. You need a greater weapon to thwart off the attack of Satan's weapon of wrong thinking.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Satan can implant a thought or imagination into your mind..

This is a war and the weapons of our warfare need to not be fleshly or carnal.. they need to be a battle of our thought life. One thought must be brought into subjection to the obedience of Christ.

Satan will tempt us to exalt ourselves.

Satan will try to puff you up in your thinking to justify wrong actions.

Example

Wrong Satanic Thought That is Exalted Against The Knowledge of God..

Someone has offended you and you are upset..

"I deserve better..."

This is a Satanic thought.. let us analyze it..

I deserve better.. What do you deserve Biblically? It is a thought that exalts itself.

Every time I saw Chris Repolt in Church and I would say to him .. How you doing brother Chris .. He would say.. Better than I deserve.. "

"God made this way he will understand.."

Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

James 1:13 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:

Wrong thinking is what leads us into sin..

There are a host of things that we think that are direct attacks of Satan on our minds.

If you remember Satan himself was able to place a thought into Peter the apostles mind.. When Peter tried to persuade Jesus not to go to the cross .. Jesus went right to the source of that thought and said, get behind me Satan..

Anything we think that is unbiblical the source is of Satan.

Paul said this.. That every thought should be brought into subjection...

II Corinthians 10:5 ... bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- 1. Deal With Temptations by Taking the Door of Escape that God provides..**
- 2. THE WAY OF ESCAPE COMES THROUGH DECISIONS WE MAKE..**
- 3. Sometimes the door of escape is to just flee temptations:**
- 4. One of the greatest doors of escape is to follow principles of Biblical separation**
- 5. Sometimes a door of escape is to resist Satan...**

II. WHAT ARE THE TEMPTATIONS THAT COME FROM WITHIN..

After we deal with the temptations that come from without.. we need to look at the temptations that come from within.

How often it is that we have heard the expression, "The Devil Made Me Do It"?

The truth is there are a lot of temptations that we have that just come from within and do not need the help of the devil. In the Millennial Kingdom Satan will be locked up yet men will sin and be tempted to sin.

These are the temptations that proceed from the weakness of our flesh. These are works that proceed from the flesh. In the flesh we will sin.

In the Flesh we are by nature children of wrath:

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Paul said

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not.

What are the temptations that proceed from within..

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, retellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

You don't need any help to be tempted in the area of physical immorality..

| |
|---|
| Adultery, Fornication, Uncleanness, Lasciviousness, which includes lewd indecent acts and behavior.. |
|---|

In the flesh men are tempted to commit these sins.. Along with fleshly immorality is Spiritual infidelity as follows

| |
|--|
| Idolatry, is spiritual whoredom.. putting other things in the place of god.. Witchcraft, is the practice of serving Satan for worldly advantage.. |
|--|

In the flesh we are motivated to

hatred,
variance,
emulations, These are the sins that just make people downright miserable to be
around
wrath,
strife,

seditions,
heresies, Are these not the sins of the devil himself against God

Galatians 5:21

Envyings,
murders,
drunkenness,
revellings,

These are the works of the flesh and the temptations that we face in the flesh day by day..

What are the solutions to overcome these internal temptations?

1. WE CONQUER THE TEMPTATIONS WITHIN WHEN WE RECKEN OURSELVES DEAD TO THE FLESH

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dead people do not sin..

The word reckon is from the following Greek word

logizomai, log-id'-zom-ahee; mid. from 3056; to take an inventory, i.e. estimate (lit. or fig.): -conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).

----- Dictionary Trace -----

logos, log'-os; from 3004; something said (including the thought); by impl. a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive; by extens. a computation; spec. (with the art. in John) the Divine Expression (i.e. Christ): -account, cause, communication, X concerning, doctrine, fame, X have to do, intent, matter, mouth, preaching, question, reason, + reckon, remove, say (-ing), shew, X speaker, speech, talk, thing, + none of these things move me, tidings, treatise, utterance, word, work.

logiz omai.. is a compound word.. comes from the word.. Logos from which we get the word think .. we get the word logic from this Greek word. Though process.. Again.. sin comes from a problem of our thinking.

We must conquer the temptations of the flesh with the greater power of the spirit from which we can literally reckon, and reason, the power of the word is greater than the power of the flesh. Through Christ we can subjugate the flesh if we live in the spirit and not in the flesh.

To reckon something is to claim it as being so when as yet it is not literally so. So when you reckon yourself dead, you are declaring it to be the case.

When Jesus died you died.. you say well I have no recollection of it.. NO, YOU ARE TO DECLARE IT SO.. YOU ARE TO RECKON IT SO..

When we say we are in Christ, we are saying we are in Christ in the spirit and not in the flesh. In the flesh we sin, we are tempted to sin.. we will sin... If we walk in the flesh we cannot but sin!!!

Why did Jesus die? It took death to save us and free us from sin.

When we ask Jesus to save us our sins are laid on him and we were crucified with him.

Romans 8 explains the process of our position in Christ.. We are in Christ in the spirit and not in the flesh.. In the flesh we were crucified with Christ, in the spirit we are raised with him..

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

2. WE OVER COME THE TEMPTATIONS FROM WITHIN BY WALKING IN THE SPIRIT AND NOT IN THE FLESH..

We need to be lead of the spirit to walk in the spirit..

We need to crucify the flesh and its lusts and strengthen the spirit and its power in our life..

In the flesh we need to be weak.. those who are strong in the flesh will tend to have problems walking in the spirit.

What you feed will lead.. if we feed and yield to the passions of the flesh we will be lead by the flesh and walk in the flesh.

If we feed the spirit we will be lead of the spirit.

What you feed will lead..

Jesus said to his leaders.. FEED MY SHEEP..

How are the sheep feed.. they are feed by the preaching of the word of God..

What you feed in your life will lead your life..

Do you want to walk in the spirit.. feed the spirit.. The spirit is feed as you meditate on the word of God.. as you hear the word of God.. as you are challenged by the word of God.

What you feed will lead..

III. SINCE THERE ARE ONLY TWO SOURCES OF TEMPTATIONS TO CAUSE YOU TO SIN IF YOU RESIST THESE TWO SOURCES THEN YOU WILL BE FREE TO SERVE CHRIST

Serving Christ is the evidence that you are victorious over temptations.

What is the goal of the tempter? The tempter's goal is to trap you .. to enslave to sin.

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Now why did Jesus save you?

Why did Jesus die for you?

We stress that God wants us in heaven with him.. If that be the case as soon as we get saved we would be taken to heaven.

We stress this so much that if that is all there is to salvation you would think God would just take us to heaven as soon as we ask him into our hearts. Jesus when presenting salvation to people stressed more the concept of life than death. We so often say to someone.. "Do you know where your going to spend eternity?" "Do you know you're going to heaven when you die?" etc.. Now it is true that absent from the body present with the Lord.

We stress this so much that I remember when we had a DVBS platform Bible school and we gave an invitation and asked the children if they would like to be saved to come forward so a counselor could talk to them. One little boy come forward, and we sent him in to back room to talk to a councilor. After the councilor got done talking to him he came out of the back room with tears in his eyes holding up a track with tears in his eyes he handed me back the track and said, mister, I don't want to die and go to heaven. He was told if he got saved, right now if he died he would go straight to heaven. Well that was not good news to him.. who wants to die.. He wanted life not death. In his mind he had to die to be saved.

The truth is that if you are not saved you are already dead.. you are dead in trespasses of sin. When you get saved you are given life.

II Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

Ephesians 2:1 And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Salvation is not just for after you die.. Jesus wants to save us right here and now .. he wants to gives us eternal life.. and that life does not start after we die it starts as soon as we receive Him and receive His spirit.

If we live in the flesh, we are dead to God..

If we live in the spirit, we are dead to the flesh and alive to God..

Those who are in the spirit seem to be dead to those who are in the flesh..

Those who are in the flesh are living a life of death in God's eyes and those who eyes are opened to the things of the spirit.. Of the prodigal son who went away to live in sin ..

the father said "this my son was dead." To those who have not the spirit and are not saved this concept seems strange to them.

I Peter 4:3 For the time past of [our] life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

I Peter 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with [them] to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of [you]:

I Peter 4:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

To the world the life we live is dead and boring..

They eat, drink, get drunk, party it up .. they think it strange that we don't want to do the same things..

Jesus came to set us free from sin..

Jesus came to give us life more abundant..

Jesus came to liberate us from the bondage of the flesh..

Jesus died for our sins.. why because we were dead in trespasses of sins.. and only death could free us from this bondage.. He died for all because all were dead..

II Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

And that is not the end of it.. he died for all that we should not live any more our life for sin and self.. but that we may be free to serve righteousness and do righteousness.. and live for Him..

II Corinthians 5:15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

He died so we who live should not from that point on live for ourselves.. to ourselves.. but unto him which died for us..

NOW THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD..

Those who live to sin.. and serve sin..

Those who live unto righteousness and Serve Christ..

What is life? What is your life.. What do you live for?

If you live in the flesh you live for the deeds of the flesh..

If you live for Christ you live for righteousness and live in the spirit..

Here is the problem... the purpose of the tempter is to get you in bondage to sin. If you live to sin you will never be free of temptation..

The only way to get freedom from temptation and to resist temptation is to live for Christ and serve Christ.

David was not tempted to sin until he got off the battle field and pampered his fleshly desires. As long as he was serving as King and fighting for the Lord he was free from temptation.

You want deliverance from temptation, without serving Christ.

II Corinthians 5:15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Live unto Christ.. not unto yourself.. When you pamper yourself in the flesh you will be tempted you will sin..

While you're serving Christ you will be living the victorious life.

Christ did not die for you to live for yourself.
Notice what the verse says,

II Corinthians 5:15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

He died so we should not henceforth live unto ourselves...

Victory is not for those who live for themselves..

Most people are in bondage to temptations.. doomed to spiritual failure after failure.. because they are living unto themselves..

He died so you could live for him who died for you. Not for self.

Think about what is it to live for yourself. Let me submit that living for yourself is living in the flesh. How can you get victory over temptation as long as you are living in the flesh. Those who live in the flesh will not experience victory over sin.. because the flesh is in bondage to sin.

Christ never saved you to live in the flesh.. he saved you to live in the spirit..

We are not children of the flesh but children of the spirit .. Do we pray in the flesh, do we serve in the flesh? Are we to live for the flesh?

In my flesh dwells no good thing..
The fruit of the flesh is corruption ..
In the flesh we die.. in the spirit we shall we made alive..

He died so we who live should live unto him who died for us..

Let us consider the conclusion of this..

How do we overcome temptation and live the victorious Christian life?

Conclusion

How do we overcome temptations to sin and live a victorious Spiritual life in Christ..

- I. RESIST TEMPTATIONS FROM WITHOUT.. World Devil..
These are the tempters from without**
- II. RESIST THE TEMPTATIONS FROM WITHIN .. THE FLESH..
This is the tempter from within..**
- III. BE FREE TO SERVE CHRIST AND RISE ABOVE TEMPTATIONS..
This is the evidence you have gotten the victory..**

This is when you know you have gotten the victory over the tempter..

When we stop living for ourselves and start living for Christ.. then and only then are we living the victorious Christian life. This is why he died for us. This is why he saved us. Start living by serving HIM...