

More than Conquerors: Overcoming Temptation

Hebrews 4:15

I. What is temptation?

- A. There are different types of temptation in the Bible.
 - 1. There are temptations that are struggles of life.
 - a. These develop spiritual character.
 - b. There are many forms of these types of temptations.
 - c. These are different than consequences.
 - 2. There are temptations that are spiritual tests.
 - a. These test our obedience and faith.
 - b. God sometimes puts difficulties into our lives to reveal our spiritual strength.
 - 3. There are temptations that are temptations to sin.
 - a. These try to destroy our character and faith.
 - b. It is so much easier to destroy than to build.

II. Where does temptation come from?

- A. The temptation to sin does not come from God.
- B. Temptation comes from the three enemies of the Christian.
 - 1. The Devil
 - 2. The World
 - 3. Our Flesh

III. What does God say about temptation?

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- B. Hebrews 4:15
- C. 1 Peter 1:14-16
- D. Does this teach sinless perfection?

IV. How do we overcome temptation?

- A. We see this laid out for us in James 1:14-16.
- B. Distance
 - 1. Overcoming temptation is not primarily an exercise of the will.
 - 2. You must be in relationship with God and walking in the Spirit to overcome temptation.
 - 3. If you want victory, it has to come from God.
- C. Desire
 - 1. This is a spiritual change as well.
 - 2. Develop a taste for the spiritual and you can lose your taste for the sinful.
- D. Opportunity
 - 1. This is the one we have the most physical control over.
 - 2. Limit your opportunities to sin.
- E. These three elements are the three-legged stool of temptation.
 - 1. Distance, desire, and opportunity.
 - 2. If you remove just one of the three, you will overcome temptation.