

“The Power to Say No to Temptation”

I Peter 4:1-9

July 15, 2012

1. Arm yourselves!

“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.” (4:1)

2. Live for the will of God!

“...so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.” (4:2)

3. Don't go backwards!

“For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.” (4:3)

4. Surprise people with your choices!

“With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery and they malign you.” (4:4)

5. “Maybe Today!” –(Live with the expectation of Christ returning soon.)

“The end of all things is at hand, therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.” (4:7)

6. Love one another!

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (4:8-9)

Application:

1. Which step above is most needed in your life this week? Thank the Lord for His provision for your victory.
2. Pray for discernment this week to be alert to the temptations of the enemy and to know the proper response.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
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1. Share one victory you have had in your life, where you once said "yes" to sin but now with the Lord's help you are saying "no."
2. To win the battle we must first do what, according to 4:1? (Also Eph. 6:10) What does it mean to "cease from sin?" What does it not mean?
3. What should be the primary goal in our lives? (v. 2) Read Rom. 12:1-2 and discuss the decisions that need to be made.
4. Satan loves to tempt us to "go back." What previous sins have been an attraction to you? (4:3) Define "lawless idolatry."
5. Our choices should surprise the world that is watching us. (4:4) If everyone is doing it, then the Christian that chooses to not do it ends up going upstream. Describe the struggle of the Christian in terms of salmon going upstream. How is it similar? Different?
6. How will non-Christians treat you if you refuse to go along? (4:4b) How does knowing this fact help us in the battle?
7. What should we remember every day that will help us in the battle of temptations? (4:7) If you knew Jesus was on the way, how would that change your choices? Respond to the three things our prayer life needs - 1. A clear mind (Pr. 4:23) 2. A clean heart. (I John 1:9) 3. Clean hands (Jam. 4:8) Which is the most difficult for you.
8. Read Titus 2:12-14 and discuss the motivation of turning from sin.
9. One final command in order to win the battle is found in v. 8. Discuss the many kinds of temptations we face. How does Peter's reminder of Pr. 10:12 help fight sin? Are there any temptations that cannot be fought with this weapon? (John 13:35)
10. Pray for one another to win the battle with temptation this week using these weapons from the Lord.