

Prepared for the Battle

Much of our success in resisting temptation must begin well before we are faced with the tempting choice.

1. We must understand that our natural responses require that we yield fully to the Holy Spirit – Galatians 5:16-25 (1132)
 - A. We have two choices:
 - 1) Live by the Spirit
 - 2) Give in to our sinful nature
 - B. A description of that which comes naturally – vs. 19-21
 - 1) Sin is our default mode
 - C. A description of that which comes as a result of living by the Spirit – vs. 22-25
 - D. These two are at odds within us and create a constant war within us – Romans 7:15-23 (1096)
 - E. Strength to face temptation begins with being led by the Spirit
2. We must avoid the idolatry of self-reliance – 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 (1111)
 - A. Evil is a heart issue – vs. 6
 - B. Anytime we fail to give proper respect to God, we are practicing idolatry – vs. 7-10
 - 1) Revelry (partying), sexual immorality, testing Christ and grumbling are cited as examples.
 - 2) Friendship with the world is enmity with God – James 4:4 (1174)
 - 3) Submission to God is required before we can resist the Devil's temptation – James 4:7-8 (1174)
 - 4) We must learn from these Biblical examples – vs. 11
 - C. Over-confident self-reliance sets us up for a fall – vs 12
 - D. God limits our temptation – vs. 13
 - E. Strength to face temptation comes through God's protection and not our own strength
3. We must not grant power to sin in our lives – Romans 6:11-14 (1095)
 - A. We must count ourselves dead to sin – vs. 11
 - 1) We are to crucify the sin nature – Galatians 5:24 (1132)
 - 2) We are then to allow Christ to live through us – Galatians 2:20 (1129)
 - B. We must not let sin reign in our lives – vs. 12
 - 1) Sin reigns when we give it power
 - C. We must not offer ourselves to sin – vs. 13
 - 1) We begin by not putting ourselves in tempting situations
 - 2) We then replace that by putting ourselves in situation where we are strengthened spiritually