

New Covenant - Overcoming Temptation - Part 2

by Zac Poonen

The New Covenant promises that we can be overcomers of sin, but we must take responsibility for our actions and have faith in God's power to help us.

Duration: 9:12

Scripture: Genesis 4:7, Psalm 103:2-4, Romans 6:14, Galatians 6:7-8, Hebrews 4:15, Revelation 3:21

Topics: "Overcoming Sin", "Spiritual Victory"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the principle of sowing and reaping in the spiritual realm, highlighting the importance of planting seeds of truth in our hearts to produce a harvest of righteousness. It discusses the blindness caused by the devil, both in unbelievers and believers, regarding the seriousness of sin and the possibility of overcoming it through Christ. The message challenges listeners to take responsibility for their actions, avoid blaming external factors, and embrace the truth that victory over sin is attainable through faith and personal accountability.

Transcript

Farmer, you know that the crop you get depends on the type of seed you sow. If you sow tomatoes, you get tomatoes. You won't get potatoes.

If you want potatoes, you better sow potatoes as well. You get what you sow. So, if we keep on hearing truths about forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ, we'll get forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ.

That's a crop we get. And if we never ever ever have a seed sown into a heart that sin shall not have dominion over you, Romans 6.14, or that we must follow in his steps who committed no sin, that's Paul and Peter and John, we have to walk as he walked. Such seed is never sown into a heart.

In a hundred years, you will not get a crop. How can you get potatoes if you don't sow potatoes? So, that's why it's important for us. You can see how the devil has not only blinded the minds of those who don't believe in the forgiveness of sins, he's blinded the minds of multitudes of believers that they can overcome sin.

You think the devil is happy with just blinding the minds of unbelievers? Do you know the number of things in believers he's blinded their eyes to, that sin is not serious? Think of the number of believers who fool around with sin. You think they fool around with poison like that? Oh, no. They know poison is dangerous, but they think sin is less dangerous.

If you swallow poison, you don't necessarily go to hell. If you're born again and you accidentally swallowed poison, you die, you'll go to heaven. But if you live in sin, it's worse than poison.

That'll take you to hell. So, the devil blinds people to the seriousness of sin. Now, all this matter of overcoming temptation, that's no use telling people in the old covenant about it, because they couldn't overcome.

They couldn't overcome, I'd say, because of two reasons. One, they had no human example of anybody who had overcome. Moses, Elijah, some of the greatest men in the Old Testament, could not turn around and say to people, follow me, and overcome as I have overcome.

No. They could only proclaim the forgiveness of sin, Psalm 103. Bless the Lord, O my soul, who forgives all your sins, number one.

Psalm 103, who heals all your diseases, number two. Who saves your life from the pit of hell, number three. And who blesses your life with good things materially, number four.

So, what are the blessings in Psalm 103? Forgiveness of sins, healing of sicknesses, deliverance from hell, and material blessings. If that is the gospel you have heard, that is an old covenant gospel from Psalm 103. All those things are there.

You know what is extra in the new covenant, most important of all? That you can be an overcomer. You can overcome sin. You can overcome temptation.

You can follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who committed no sin. And if we slip up and fall, don't ever say, that's because I'm human. Don't ever say, that's because I got a sinful nature.

Oh, how we love to put the blame on something else since the days of Adam. It's not me, it's my wife. It's not me, it's this nature I have.

Why not take the blame? Why not be a man, Adam, and say, yes, I did it Lord, I'm sorry. Why not take the blame and say, Lord, it's because I was not wholehearted. I was not humble enough.

That's why I didn't get grace. We don't like to say that, do we? That's why we remain defeated year after year after year. Because we put the blame on something else.

Oh, I was born with this nature. I inherited this and this tendency and this pressure was too much, etc., etc. Keep on putting the blame.

I believe God has put all those people who put the blame on others in a category where they'll never in their whole life get victory over sin. Please consider that in your life. Whether you tend to put the blame on something else, someone else, circumstances, today you were tired, today you had a headache, that's why you did this, etc., etc.

I'll tell you a little secret of overcoming. Take the blame 100%. That's the first step to victory.

And the second step is faith. Lord, I believe. So, so much as an introduction.

The other thing I want to mention here is that the more godly you are, the more you will be tempted and tested. There is never a time when temptation will cease. Jesus had already been faithful for 30 years.

We know he was faithful because the previous verse says, Jesus, the father said, this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. And we, we know what happened in those 30 years. Hebrews 4.15 tells us what happened in those 30 years.

He was tempted in all points as we are. He was tempted as a little boy to disobey his mother. Never did it.

He was tempted as a little boy to get irritated and fight with his four younger brothers and two younger sisters. Never did it. He was tempted as a little boy, perhaps, to cheat in the examinations.

Never did it. He was tempted as a little boy to be tempted with all the things that little boys and girls are tempted with. Never did it.

Then he grew up to be a teenager and he was tempted with all the things that young teenagers between the ages of 13 and 19 are tempted with. And you know what they are. And he never sinned.

Not once, not even for a fraction of a second. And you teenagers know how strong the pressures of certain temptations can be when you're young. And what relief you get when you finally yield to it and say, ah.

And then what regret you have immediately after that for having yielded. No, the pressure. The pressure of temptation is pretty strong.

You'd resist it, resist it, and the pressure becomes more. Come on, yield, yield, yield. He was tempted exactly like you.

In all points, Hebrews 4.15 is an amazing verse. The devil has blinded Christians to the truth of it. We have proclaimed it for 30 years and people call us heretics for proclaiming Hebrews 4.15. That's how blind Christendom has become.

That when we proclaim that Jesus was tempted, like we are in all points, we're called heretics. When proclaiming God's word is called heresy, you know how far Christendom has drifted. These are not theories or fairy tales.

These are the words of scripture which the devil has blinded Christians to. Why does he blind them to that? So that they don't overcome. Do you think the devil wants a bunch of overcoming Christians in the world? No.

He wants a bunch of defeated Christians in every church. Who do you think would get more upset if you get victory over sin? God or the devil? You answer that. Who will get more upset if you get victory over sin in your life as a young man? Who do you think wants you to believe that you'll never get victory over sin? God or the devil? You just answer that question, you get the answer immediately.

The Lord told Cain in Genesis 4.7, you must overcome sin. It's not a new message. Cain, you must overcome sin.

Sin is crouching to overcome you, but you must overcome it. Book of Revelation, it says in Revelation 3.21, you must overcome as I overcame. So right from the first pages of scripture to the last pages of scripture, the message is this, but under the law, nobody could overcome because as I said, number one, they had no example.

In the Old Testament, they only had words, commandments, commandments, huge list of commandments, somebody totally...

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