

New Covenant - Overcoming Temptation - Part 4

by Zac Poonen

To overcome temptation, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, have the word of God in our heart and mind, and have overcome temptation in private.

Duration: 9:12

Scripture: Romans 10:8

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Overcoming Temptation"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit and overcoming temptation as sources of power in the Christian life. It highlights the need to have God's word hidden in our hearts, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and overcome temptation to receive these sources of power. The speaker discusses the levels of temptation and the necessity of progressing in spiritual maturity to overcome sin effectively, drawing parallels between academic grades and spiritual growth.

Transcript

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit within and we need to overcome in temptation. These are the sources of power. One, being filled in our heart and mind with the word of God.

Psalms 119, David says, Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee. I think that's verse 9 or 11. And then be filled with the Holy Spirit.

That's the other source of power. And the third source of power is when you have overcome temptation in private. When you have these three sources of power, your heart is filled with God's word, not your mind.

Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee. To put it in your mind is just information. It's like information, like chemistry, two parts of hydrogen plus one part of oxygen equals water.

That won't help you to overcome sin. And knowing that God is a trinity won't help you to overcome sin. You can have a lot of facts of the Bible, David killed Goliath, et cetera, et cetera.

No, to have it in your heart means you've opened your heart to those truths of the word and you're responding to it in faith and you believe in your heart, the Bible says. We don't believe in our minds. We believe in our heart.

Romans 10, verse 8 to 10, and trust in the Lord with all your heart, Proverbs 3 verse 5. So if we fill our hearts with God's word and our hearts are filled with the Holy Spirit, and thirdly, like it says in Hebrews 13 verse 8, our hearts are strengthened by grace to overcome temptation, then we have received the three sources of power. Jesus' mind and heart was filled with God's word by the time he was 30. He was filled with the Holy Spirit.

And now, and he was also tempted in 30 years and he was to be tempted further. And you know, it's temptation, there are grades in temptation. When you're in the first grade, you get easier examinations, two plus two, five minus three.

When you go up to 10th standard, you're dealing with geometry and trigonometry and later on with calculus and it gets more and more. Temptation is like that. Two plus two is a struggle for a three-year-old and calculus is a struggle for a 17-year-old.

So temptation is always a struggle, but at different levels. When you're first born again, you're struggling with anger. But if you're still struggling with anger after five years of being born again, I say brother, there's something seriously wrong with you.

It's like a child still struggling with two plus two when he's 10 years old. That's pretty serious. It's not serious when he's three years old, but it's pretty serious if he's 10 years old and he doesn't know what two plus two is.

So if you're born again yesterday and you're defeated by anger, that's not serious. But if you've been born again five years and you're still defeated by anger, it's pretty serious. It is.

You're still in the kindergarten, that's what I mean. How long are you going to stay there? When are you going to move on? You want to spend all your life in grade one? I don't want to do that. So Jesus was tempted for 30 years and he was still tempted.

So these were not ordinary temptations. These are temptations as the PhD level, if you can understand them. Deep, you know, very subtle.

Satan's the cleverest of all created beings. I hope you know he's cleverer than you and me. The seagull 28 says he's cleverer than Daniel.

So you can't outsmart him. He knows exactly your weaknesses because he studied your life for so many years. And he knows where to trip you up and he knows where to trip me up.

We got to be alert. The only way we can overcome is we look at Jesus and see that he overcame. And if you are filled with the Holy Spirit and we believe that under the new covenant the promise is, Romans 6 14, sin will not rule over you.

And if you are led by the Spirit, if you walk in the Spirit, like we saw in Galatians 5, you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Romans 6 says, you are slaves to the one to whom you yield. Let me show you that verse, Romans chapter 6, because this is essentially what happens in temptation.

And the reason I'm not turning to all these verses is I'm hoping you'll do that later on. Romans 6, 7, and 8 are very, very important chapters that explain victory over sin. But we won't have time to cover it all, that's why.

Romans chapter 6, it says here verse 16, do you not know that when you present yourself to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death or obedience to God resulting in righteousness. So it's something like this, here's the Holy Spirit and here's the devil. And in a provocative situation, maybe somebody yelled at me or said something to me or hurt me in some way, and now I hear two voices.

The devil says, give him a piece of your mind, come on, don't be a man, don't just keep quiet. And the Holy Spirit says, follow Jesus now, die, die to your sense of dignity and reputation, reckon yourself dead. You are going to be a slave to one of these people in that moment.

And you know whose slave you have been in past days. When you're on the internet and nobody's around and you see a site which you know will satisfy the lusts of your flesh. And the devil says, come on, click on it, just have a look for five seconds.

I don't want you to see more than five seconds. And the Holy Spirit says, don't pollute your mind. Jesus wouldn't click on that site and go there to see such filthy sexual stuff.

You have two voices and you are a slave to the one you obey. You think you're a slave to Christ, really? How can you be a slave of Christ when you listen to the devil? And not just once, but again and again and again. Now if two people are standing here and both claim that I am their servant, it's very easy to find out whose servant I am.

Tell them both to give me a command. Mr. A says, come here and I don't even listen. Mr. B says, come here and I go immediately.

It's very easy to find out whose servant I am. Whose servant are you? You discover when you're tempted. Gods are the devils.

You see, but we are human. That's why I said you need to know that Jesus was human. That is the secret.

1 Timothy 3.16 says, great is the mystery. It's a mystery of godliness. That is the secret of how to live a godly life.

It's a secret. He came in the flesh. It doesn't mean he came in a sinful nature.

No, I told you he never had an old man, but he came in the flesh. Like me, like you, and was proved righteous by the Holy Spirit. Even though he came in the flesh, he was pure in his spirit.

How did he manage that? This is what is proclaimed in the world and believed. And in the previous verse, it says in verse 15, that the church of the living God is supposed to be the pillar and support of the

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