**BIBLE - TEMPTATION**

***JAMES 1:12-15 - TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – The bible is very clear that we are blessed if we overcome temptation and as a result of overcoming temptation we will receive the crown of life. But the problem we face in this life is actually overcoming temptation. The big question for us is, “How can we overcome temptation?” We need to understand we do not sin by being tempted we sin when we yield to temptation. The purpose of our lesson today is to study some guidelines to help us overcome temptation.

***OVERCOMING TEMPTATION:***

1. **REMEMBER GOD’S WORD** –
   1. **EPH. 6:17** – Use God’s word as a weapon in your spiritual battles with Satan.
   2. **MATT. 4:1-11** – Each time Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness he replied it is written.
   3. **PSA. 119:11** – David said he hid the word of God in his heart that he might not sin against Him.
   4. **PSA. 119:153, 157, 176** – When we are tempted to do wrong reflect on the word and what it says regarding the matter. In order to be able to use the word of God effectively we must know what it says.
2. **AVOID TEMPTATION** –
   1. **1 TIM. 6:11** – Rather than seeing how close to sin we can get, without crossing over the proverbial line we need to run in the opposite direction.
   2. **2 TIM. 2:22** – Flee from lust but pursue godliness. Many times we do just the opposite.
   3. **GEN. 39:12** – I.E. – The example of Joseph fleeing from Potiphar’s wife.
   4. **PROV. 5:3-8** – The Proverb writer warned the young man not to go near the harlot’s door.
3. **PRAY** –
   1. **MATT. 6:13** – Jesus taught his disciples to pray to not be lead into temptation.
   2. **MATT. 26:41** – Jesus gave his disciples good advise but they did not follow it. Watch – look where we are going and what we are heading into and pray that we enter not into temptation.
   3. **EPH. 6:18** – It is interesting to note that in the context where Paul is discussing putting on the whole armor of God to fight against the wiles of the devil that he adds we need to pray always so we can persevere.
4. **HONEST SELF EXAMINATION** –
   1. **2 COR. 13:5** – We must constantly examine where we are and where we are heading. We must continue to ask am I walking in the paths of God or the world. Do I flee temptation or do I run right in its face? Could I be guilty of creating my own tempting situations?
   2. **2 COR. 2:11** – Do we give Satan opportunities to take advantage of us or do we exercise self discipline and a willingness to see things as they really are. Do we take the proper precautions or do we blindly head into danger by using human rather than divine wisdom?
5. **UNDERSTAND HOW THE TEMPTER WORKS** –
   1. **1 JN. 2:15-17** – Any military leader can tell you that knowing how your enemy operates helps with your effort to defeat him. Satan has three avenues through which he appeals to us. Satan attacks us at what he knows to be our weakest point. Do not underestimate our adversary. He is sly, cunning, crafty, and has in mind only one goal – to destroy our souls.
6. **CHOOSE YOUR COMPANIONS WISELY** –
   1. **1 COR. 15:33-34** – Obviously our friends have a great deal of influence – either good or bad on us. Godly moral companions are a good influence because they encourage us to do good things. On the other hand evil and ungodly friends are a bad influence, because they seek to lead us away from God.
   2. **1 COR. 10:12** – None of us are so strong that when we choose to associate with sin that it cannot affect us. Many young people are lost to the world because they simply got with the wrong crowd.
7. **REMEMBER SIN’S CONSEQUENCES** –
   1. **GEN. 39:8-9** – It seems Joseph was thinking about this when he resisted sin in his life.
   2. **HEB. 11:25** – Many learn too late that the pleasures of sin only last fro a season.
   3. **ROM. 6:23** – Sin’s wages never change.
8. **LOOK FOR A WAY TO ESCAPE –** 
   1. **1 COR. 10:13** – Temptation is like being in a room with more than one door – there is a way to escape but sometimes we ignore the escape route and yield to the temptation. We need to look for the way to do the right thing and then do it!

**CONCLUSION** –

Each time we yield to temptation we become weaker.

Each time we overcome temptation we become stronger

Are you overcoming temptation or is temptation overcoming you???