

simple
C H U R C H



HIGHER AIM

Triumphant Over Temptation

Simple Church | Week 2 | 1 Corinthians 10:13; Luke 4:1-13

INTRODUCTION

There is a war going on inside of us all the time. We need to realize that this is part of the human condition. The Bible says very clearly that God is faithful. He will not allow you to go through any temptation that you can't avoid, or that you don't have the strength to endure. With that in mind, I want to share five basic principles concerning how to become triumphant over temptations. Some are geared more toward the flesh, while some are aimed at the desires in our hearts and lives. You and I need to embrace these principles because Jesus did, and He has given us that model.

KEY POINTS

1. Prepare For Battle

The way you prepare for battle is very important. For many of us, we don't prepare for battle. We just use our own willpower. Instead, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. For a believer, to be filled with the Holy Spirit is simply this. The moment you turned from sin and placed your faith in Jesus, you were baptized in the Holy Spirit. At that time, the Holy Spirit came to live inside of you.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is the sequential outflow of the control of Jesus in your life. The way you are filled with the Holy Spirit is very simple. It is like breathing -- breathe out and breathe in. You breathe out; you confess your sin, get right with God, and acknowledge anything that is blocking your relationship with Him. You turn from your sin and own it. Then, you breathe in and ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit. After that, you just walk. Don't look for feelings, but rather prepare for battle.

2. Practice Saying No

Unfortunately, many of us respond to the push and the tug of the evil one, instead of saying, "No" to our flesh, "No" to our desires, "No" to any shortcut, and "No" to Satan. That's exactly what Jesus did. It is important that you understand the power of saying, "No" by learning from His example. You don't have to give in; you don't need to have that sin in your life.

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3. Personalize The Word

Every time Satan enters your heart, your mind, and your life through a situation, you need to personalize the Word. Whether you put yourself in some situation, or you suddenly found yourself in a desperate place, you need the power of God. This is where you need to personalize the Word of God because the Word of God is very powerful. As you use the Word of God, that power comes from God through His Word to you and in that situation.

God's Word shows you where you are standing and where you should be going. That's why you need the Word of God, not just in a sermon, but you need the Word of God all the time. Learn to feed yourself, learn to read the Word of God. Some people say, "I don't like to read." Ask God to give you a desire to read His Word. You say, "I just can't read it. The pages are thin and the words are so small." Then get a Bible app and listen to the Word of God. There is power in the Word of God. If you use the Word of God, it will make a difference in your life!

4. Put Your Weight On Jesus

He wants us to make sure that we find ourselves in Him in the midst of temptation. He will always be there for you. He will never leave you alone because He cares about you. He wants to be there for you. As you walk with Him, you need to lean in on Him and put all of your weight on Him.

So often we use our willpower rather than our spiritual power as children of God. But it is absolutely critical that we lean upon the Lord and put all of our weight on Him when temptation comes. Victory today does not guarantee that you will have victory tomorrow. Temptation will come again and again. Therefore you need to know how to deal with temptation in your life, and that is by putting your weight on Jesus.

5. Praise The Lord

This Scripture tells us that we should praise the Lord in all circumstances. Trust Him and glorify Him in the middle of temptation. As you learn to praise the Lord in the midst of temptation, it will help you submit to the Lord and resist the evil one.

In other words, turn your focus away from the temptation and your flesh, then focus on the Lord. You can overcome any sin in your life when you follow these principles!

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What temptations are you currently struggling with?
2. Which of the steps above to overcoming temptation are you already practicing? How have you seen them positively affect your life?
3. Which of the steps above do you need to work on as you face temptation? How can you begin to practice one of these steps in a new way this week?
