



OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

The Ripple Effect – Part 3

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We make our *DECISIONS*, and then our *DECISIONS* make us.

WHEN FACED WITH _____ (situation),

I HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO _____ (take this action).

- I am FAITHFUL.
- I am CONSISTENT.
- I am READY.
- I am GENEROUS.
- I am a FINISHER.

We lose the battle with TEMPTATION.

Because we aren't prepared or READY to face it.

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matthew 26:41)

WHY ARE WE ON GUARD?

1. The DEVIL is coming for you.

I wrote for this purpose: to test your character to see if you are obedient in everything. Anyone you forgive, I do too. For what I have forgiven – if I have forgiven anything – it is for your benefit in the presence of Christ, so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan. For we are not ignorant of his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:9-11)

2. You are not as STRONG as you think.

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (1 Corinthians 10:12)

Restraint Bias: The tendency to OVERESTIMATE our ability to resist temptations when making a decision. This leads to MORE exposure to said temptation.

HOW TO WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST TEMPTATION

1. You have to move the LINE.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. (Psalms 16:6)

2. Magnify the COST.

Question you must ask yourself:

WHAT IF THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO COMES TRUE?

...you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure that your sin will find you out. (Numbers 32:23)

3. Plan your ESCAPE.

...Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. (Genesis 39:6-7)

DON'T USE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT TO JUSTIFY YOUR DISOBEDIENCE.

She grabbed him by his garment and said, "Sleep with me!" But leaving his garments in her hand, he escaped and ran outside. (Genesis 39:12)

No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide a way out so that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

WHY WOULD I RESIST A TEMPTATION IN THE FUTURE IF I HAVE THE POWER TO ELIMINATE IT TODAY?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____