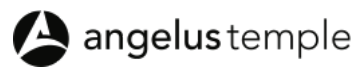


Overcoming Temptation



Name _____

Part One: The Trap of Accusation

Key Verse: Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Definition:

'**Accusation**' refers to any situation or internal state of heart that weakens or 'thins out' our understanding and sense of God's grace and Christ's work on our behalf, leading to discouragement, doubt, and coldness toward God and others.

1. Accusation is a moral judgment made by the conscience, based on either true or incorrect moral standards. Accusation is always based on Adam and Eve's initial "covenant of works," which states, "do this and you will live." The original covenant required full adherence to rules and regulations. Our conscience is firmly inclined toward the original covenant of works because we do not believe (through the BIG LIE) that God is kind.
2. "Prosecutor" is the meaning of the word "Satan." The first falsehood told by Satan was that he was accusing God himself! And our acceptance of Satan's accusation of God's immorality in our hearts is the source of all our sin and unhappiness. To us, Satan accuses God. He also accuses us in front of God. He also accuses us of something. (However, he cannot condemn God in front of God!)

Key Satan's Long Term Process

We must state right once (as always) that spiritual circumstances do not fit neatly into categories. In his book *Precious Remedies*, Thomas Brooks states that "major cycles" of temptation are frequently perpetuated and increased by a "small cycle" of accusation, as follows:

1. First, the person falls victim to temptation and commits a sin. As Brooks puts it, this is frequently accompanied with a demonic subliminal message: "Don't worry. It's always possible to repent and be forgiven afterwards. Repentance is simple, and God never fails to forgive."
2. Second, the individual feels deeply 'accused.' This often comes with a subliminal demonic theme, as Brooks puts it: "This was just too aggravated a sin to be forgiven." Your current motivations for requesting forgiveness are completely incorrect. True repentance is impossibly challenging to attain. God will not forgive you at this time." "On your path into temptation, the devil will say: repentance is so simple—God will forgive," Brooks explains, "but as you try to get out of temptation, the devil will say: repentance is too difficult—God won't forgive."

3. Third, this sense of hopelessness makes it easier to fall prey to temptation the next time it occurs. The subliminal demonic theme: "Well, you're already cut off from God anyway. Might as well take some consolation." So the person falls deeper and deeper into temptation as time goes on because he or she is going deeper into accusation as well.

Part 2: Varieties of accusation entrances, arguments, and threats.

Satanic Device

By causing them to see their present sins as greater than Christ's provision.
"To pore over their sins more than their Saviour"

By causing them to remember past sins, especially things that can't be undone.

By causing them to see the trials they are undergoing as punishments.

By causing to see their inner conflicts as evidence that they are not Christians.

By convincing them that because they relapse often into the same sin, they are not real Christians.

By convincing them that their coldness of feeling indicates that God is not with them or the Spirit is not inside them.

By throwing into the mind and heart distracting and even violent, blasphemous thoughts when they are trying to draw near.

By causing them to reason from failures in work and relationships that God does not love them or care for them.

Self-talk/Demonic suggestion

"My sins are too great for God to forgive or forget."

"I will never escape that. I am being punished by God for that forever."

"This wouldn't happen to me unless God was condemning me."

"The evil desires I have would not be in the heart of a real Christian."

"If I were really a believer I would be over this by now."

"I used to have very warm feelings toward God, but now I can't sense him. Maybe I was fooling myself."

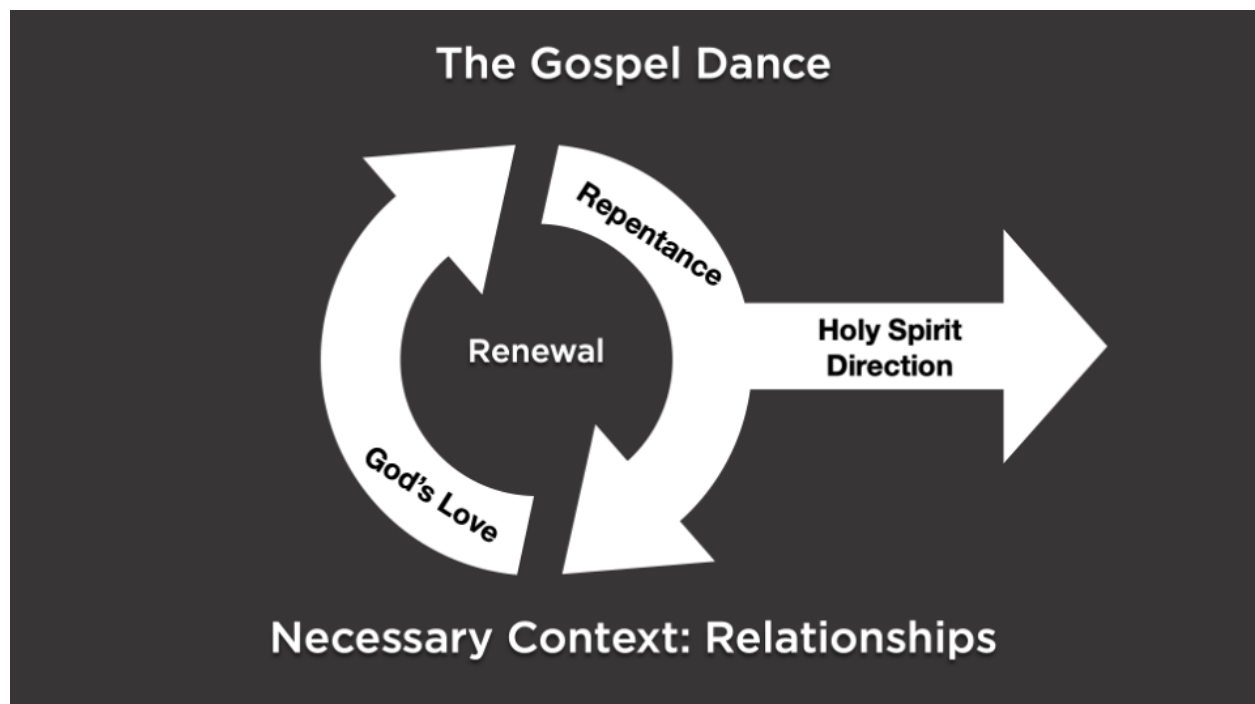
"I must be a terrible person to have such thoughts."

"I am a failure, even God has abandoned me."

Part 3: Help for Those Under Accusation

1. Ensure that the accusation comes from the Accuser, not the Holy Spirit. The Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8), yet the goal of the accusation is to bring us closer to God. The Spirit always tells us to go to God for forgiveness; the accuser always tells us we can't go to God for he has rejected us.
2. Depending on the severity of the problem, we may need a mini-support team who meets to encourage and help (ie, life group).
3. Identify the Satanic devices that are being utilized and uncover arguments and Scripture that will strengthen the person's defenses against each one. In James 4:7, we are commanded to "resist" Satan. The word "resist" is a fairly specific term that means "to vehemently contradict," "to oppose," or "to reject, debunk." To summarize, we need more than an incantation-like prayer to "resist" the enemy. To resist the devil, dismantle, disprove, and refute his arguments until they lose all power.

Part 4: Gospel Dance



Questions and Answers