



Message 2 - Conquering Temptation
Pastor Mike Chapman
Genesis 39:6-23

Temptation is the inner urge to do wrong that hits us in the place of our own personal weakness. Temptation is everywhere. It is real, and unless we learn and practice Biblical principles of overcoming it, we will fall victim to the Devil's schemes.

Joseph stands out in the Bible because he personified the Biblical principles that are necessary to overcome temptation. Today we will look at what his life teaches us.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF TEMPTATION

1. Temptation is **strategically** timed.

The forces of evil look for a time when we are vulnerable.

... far from **home**

...dealing with inner **disappointment** and **pain**

...mentally or emotionally **exhausted**

...riding the crest of **success**

2. Temptation is **strong**.

Joseph is pursued by a scheming, covetous, persistent seducer.

It appeals to a normal human desire, but takes that desire to an unlawful place.

3. Temptation is **persistent**.

Luke 4:13, *When the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until a more opportune time.* NET

4. Temptation comes when there is **opportunity**.

Satan rarely temps us with us without giving us the opportunity to fall into that temptation.

5. Temptation can lead to **destruction**.

When we violate God's law, we are sinning against him.

It is destructive to our relationships,

A STRATEGIC PLAN TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

1. **Anticipate it.**

No one escapes it ... not even Jesus.

Hebrews 4:15, *Jesus was tempted in every way, just like us, yet was without sin.* NIV

2. **Agree with God about it.**

Psalm 119:89, *Forever, O Lord, your word is settled in heaven.* NIV

God's rules or not arbitrary. They flow out of his very nature.

God knows the pathway to life and his Word guides us.

3. **Act Fast.**

Proverbs 14:16, *The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with great confidence.* NLT

4. **Ask God.**

Hebrews 4:15-16, *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations as we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.* NLT