

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 8 – Overcoming Temptation

Lesson 30 -Overcoming Temptation Part 2

Seven Lies About Temptation (continued)

Lie # 4 - I didn't want to do it.

James 1:13-15 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

Temptation comes from without, but then it touches something in us if we don't deal with it correctly. If we don't fight it, resist it, and shut the door to it, that thing begins to birth a desire in us. We do what we want to do.

As a young Christian there was an area that I wasn't totally overcoming and I asked God why I was giving in to the temptation. He said, "Because you want to." I felt really bad about it. I felt guilty and had a warring going on in my heart, but I did it because I wanted to do it. I desired to do it, and that is why I did it.

I don't care what your issue is. I don't care what you're battling. You better stop lying to yourself. God is trying to get us to take responsibility for our actions. God is trying to get us to have a breakthrough where we truly become responsible for what we have done. The Bible says that if you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive you your sins, and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) But the requirement is you have to confess. Confession here doesn't mean just to admit you did it. It implies taking responsibility. He is trying to get us to take responsibility for our actions.

The Bible says you shall know the truth and the truth will make you free, but the opposite is also true. If you believe a lie it will put you in bondage. It is a lie that you didn't want to do it. Everything you did you wanted to do. You did it because you wanted to do it.

What is God trying to make us do regarding our own sins?

[God is trying to get you and me to take responsibility for our sins.](#)

When Adam and Eve sinned, God came walking into the Garden calling out to Adam. Adam was hiding. God asked him what he was doing. Adam said, "I was naked. I was afraid. I hid

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 8 – Lesson 30

myself.” God said, “Who told you you were naked? Did you eat of the tree?” We know God to be a God of mercy and a God of forgiveness. He was giving Adam an opportunity to confess his sin and take responsibility for his actions. But Adam did not take responsibility for his sin. He blamed Eve and pointed a finger at God by reminding Him that God gave Eve to him. He blamed God for his sin. “If you didn’t give me the woman everything would have been fine.”

We do the same thing today. That’s why in the homosexual community they want everybody to believe that it is genetic, because if it is genetic then they can state that God made them gay. And if God made them gay, then they can’t resist it. Then they have no choice but to do it, and that ultimately it is God’s fault. This keeps them in bondage. Only when we confess our sins, take full responsibility for our sins, are we actually, truly going to become free from the bondage of sin.

The reality is that you wanted to do every sin that you did.

James 5:16 KJV *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Confess your faults. Take responsibility. Confess it. Stop blaming others and confess it. There is incredible deliverance in the power of confession.

Lie #5 - I have already sinned this far, I might as well go all the way.

What a trap that is! You get out there and you start sinning. You have already begun down the path. You start sinning and then you feel the conviction of God. You feel God telling you not to do it, and you have that moment and that choice when you can either run away from it and ask God to forgive you for what you’ve done and leave, or you can just go all the way. And so often, we think that because we’ve already sinned, we might as well just continue and repent tomorrow.

Right at that moment when you decide to continue in the sin after the Holy Spirit brings a level of conviction, you blow off the conviction and blow off the Holy Spirit. With all due respect, what a stupid thing to do. “I’ve already sinned this far, so I might as well keep on sinning.”

Hebrews 3:7-8 *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:*

*“ Today, if you will hear His voice,
8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
In the day of trial in the wilderness”*

What should you do the moment you feel God’s conviction?

The moment when temptation comes and you feel that conviction, respond to it immediately. You may have already failed some, but don’t keep going down that path.

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 8 – Lesson 30

Lie #6 - I'm too old, too young, too poor, too weak, too rich, too white, too black, whatever your excuse.

We think God made us this way. We get into fights and say it is part of our culture and part of our nature. We blame our family culture. We make all kinds of excuses. Do you know how many times I've had people come to me and think I'm somehow different for going hard after God? They don't understand it's not me, it's the power of the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God. But they want to make excuses. We always have excuses Well, it's this, well it's that. Again, it goes back to this area of taking responsibility.

There is a consistency to the strategy of the enemy about temptation. Think back to the times when you struggled with temptation. We believed these lies. "Well, I'm not strong like Pastor. I'm too weak. I'm too old. I come from an oppressed people group." The power of the blood of Jesus is sufficient to deliver you from the bondage of every single kind of sin. But as long as you give license to the excuses, you will never be free because it's not until you confess your sins that He will be faithful and just to forgive you of your sins and to cleanse you from the unrighteousness that empowered you to do the sin in the first place.

God is just looking for us to take responsibility. Stop the excuses.

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Romans 8:37 *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

Lie #7 - As long as I'm in the flesh, I'm going to sin.

What we are saying is, "As long as I'm in this physical body, I can't help myself. I'm going to sin." I've heard preachers stand up from the pulpit and speak this lie.

Let me ask you a question. Is Jesus a liar? On the cross He said, "IT IS FINISHED." Was He talking about it really being finished? Did He finish the work? Did He come just to forgive us of our sins? No, He did not.

1 John 3:8 *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

1 John 3:8 AMP *[But] he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done].*

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 8 – Lesson 30

The works of the enemy are sin, sickness, and death. Jesus came for the purpose to destroy the work of sin; all the works of the enemy. Jesus came to destroy the power of sin. And Jesus said, while on the cross, “IT IS FINISHED.” What is finished? The work that He came to do.

Did Jesus come just to forgive you of your sins?

He didn't come just to forgive you of your sins. He came to deliver you from the power of sin. He came to break the bondage that entered into man; the sin nature.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they became sinful people. They took on a sin nature. The Bible says that God created Adam and Eve in His own image. But when Adam and Eve, after they sinned, had a child, the Bible says that they had a child after their own image, not after the image of God. They took on the sin nature, and that sin nature is transferred in the blood. That's why the sins pass on from the father to the third and fourth generation.

This is why Jesus had to be born fatherless, because the sin nature was transferred through the blood of the father. When a man and woman come together and the baby is born, the child gets its blood from the DNA of the father, not the mother. The mother's blood never mixes with the child. So Jesus had to be born of an immaculate conception so that the egg, which would never mix with the mother's blood, was never tainted by sin. It was never tainted by sin so that perfect sperm of the Holy Spirit that entered into that egg made Jesus a man that did not have a sin nature and could then live a perfect, sin free life.

He was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin, because He did not have that inherent sin nature. And Jesus came to destroy the power of the sin nature.

We are going to spend a little time here in the book of Romans because we need to particularly understand the context of Romans 7. This is where Paul says, “I cannot do that which I want to do, and that which I want to do, I find myself not doing.” We see that battling back and forth. “Oh what a wretched man I am, who will deliver me from this body of death.” Many of you relate to that as your Christian experience. We are going to expose that.

In order to understand Scripture, you have to go back into the context of everything. You have to understand what was being talked about. Man put in the chapter markings and the verse markings. They were not in the original letters and so often we allow us to lose the flow of the context.

Between Romans 3:20 and Romans 5:11 Paul is talking often about the sins which we commit and how the blood of Jesus is sufficient to forgive us of these sins. But then beginning in Romans 5:12 he changes the context of what he says. Before he keeps talking about sins in the plural. He is talking about the sins which we commit.

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 8 – Lesson 30

Romans 5:12-13 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

Here he says sin singular. He says how through one man sin enter the world. He is not talking here about sins that we commit. He is talking here about the sin nature. When the Bible says all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God it speaks of the sin nature.

In Romans 5:12 all the way to the end of Romans 8 he is speaking of this one context; not of the sins which we commit, but of the sin nature itself.

Romans 6:11-14 *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Paul is speaking of the sin nature here. He says, you are no longer under the law, you are under grace. Grace has delivered you from the power of the sin nature so that the sin nature, the sin that came through Adam, shall no longer have dominion over you as a born again believer. Paul says, in Romans 8 you have been delivered from the power of the sin nature. You don't have to obey it any longer.

But then we go to Romans 7, and this is where some confusion comes in. We jump over into Romans 7 and we go into Verse 15-17: *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.* Though he just said in Romans 6 that we were delivered from sin, but here he is saying sin that dwells in him.

Romans 7:18-24 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Here he says he is bound into sin; he is under this captivity of sin. But in Romans 6, Paul just told us sin shall not be your master. Well wait a minute. Romans 6 says sin will not be your

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 8 – Lesson 30

master, we have been delivered from the power of sin, it shall no longer have dominion over me, but in Romans 7, it appears that Paul is saying he is himself bound under sin. He cannot control it. Remember the context of the sin nature. The sin nature makes us do what we don't want to do. Now this seems confusing. This seems strange. This seems odd.

This seems confusing because we tend to look at Romans 7 as Paul after he was saved. But I want to submit to you that Paul in Romans 7 was not talking about his Christian experience. Paul in Romans 7 was talking about his experience prior to his salvation, prior to his coming to Christ. Paul was a Pharisee. He was a Jew of Jews. He was on his way to becoming the high priest. He was a zealot for the Law. He had a law in his mind, but that law could not deliver him from the law that was warring in his members because he had a sin nature.

It's lie of the enemy that as long as we are in the flesh, we're going to sin. Jesus came for a much greater purpose than to simply forgive you of your sins. He came to deliver you from the power of the sin nature.

For Further Study:

Hebrews 10:26 *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.*

Hebrews 12:1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*