

# The Chains Have Become A Choice



February 18, 2018

*OUR PURPOSE: To be a community of believers where, no matter who you are, you can experience life change through Jesus Christ.*

## **Three marks of maturity in our relationship with God:**

1. Intimacy with God
2. Knowledge of God's Word
3. Obedience to God

*We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

—Romans 6:6 (ESV)

*In him we have redemption through his blood*

—Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

## **In Christ, sin is no longer a Chain, but a Choice!**

*"[temptation] gets its power by persuading me to believe that I will be more happy if I follow it. The power of all temptation is the prospect that I will make me happier"*

—John Piper

*13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

—1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

## **1. Expose the Lies of Sin with the Truth of the Word**

*2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written, "*

*'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'* " 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' " 7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' " 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' " 11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

—Matthew 4:2-11 (ESV)

## **2. Reject the Temptation You Face**

*"What makes temptation difficult for many people is that don't want to discourage it completely"*

—Greg Laurie

*"You can't change what you are willing to tolerate"*

—Craig Groeschel

*22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

—2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)

## **3. Run Away from Sin**

## **4. Run Towards the Things of God**