

HOW TO RESIST TEMPTATION

Lesson 3

Now that you are a Christian, you must realize you are in a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6: 12). The devil has schemes devised to defeat you. But you can be more than an overcomer through Christ! (Romans 8:37) Our victory is made possible through faith (I John 5:4). People fail spiritually when, not aware of the enemy's tactics, they are caught off guard or when they do not draw upon available spiritual resources by faith. In this lesson we will look at the techniques of our enemy the devil as well as our resources of our God for victory.

I. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVIL

In order to get a better perspective of the nature of your enemy, look at how the Bible describes him.

A. The Accuser -- Revelation 12:10

1. In the garden he accused God of being unfair -- Genesis 3:4-5
2. In the conflict seen in Job, he accused Job before God saying, "He (Job) will curse thee to thy face" -- Job 1: 11
3. The devil is continually trying to give you a false sense of guilt by his accusations, but God is even greater than your heart and knows your heart -- even when you don't -- I John 3: 19-20

B. Adversary -- Roaring Lion -- I Peter 5:8

The devil's purpose is to destroy. John 10:10 speaks of him as a thief who "comes only to steal, kill, and destroy." Luke 22:31 reveals that "Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat." I Peter 5:8 says the devil wants to devour you, like a lion devours its prey. He shows no mercy! His real nature is lion-like and serpent-like.

C. The ruler of this world -- John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11

The word "ruler" emphasizes Satan's control over the minds of men and the affairs of this world. Similarly, the devil is called the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2: 1-2), the inspiration for those who disobey God.

D. The god of this world -- 2 Corinthians 4:4

As the "god of this world," Satan is blinding the spiritual eyes of those who do not wish to know the truth. However, he cannot blind you if you sincerely want to believe. "You will seek me and find me: when you seek me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13.

E. A murderer and a liar -- John 8:44

Satan lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:4 – “you will surely not die”), and he has been lying ever since.

F. An angel of light -- 2 Corinthians 11:14

One of Satan's favorite tricks is to get people to believe in a mythical character with a long tail, two horns, and a pitchfork. He is too smart to come to you in such a way. Instead, he makes sin attractive. He baits the hook until you cannot see the end result of what appears beautiful and safe. In fact, the devil's most clever tool is to make people believe he does not exist, and you must realize he is constantly busy. Job 2:2 pictures the devil "going to and fro on the earth."

G. The tempter -- I Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:1, 3, 7

H. Other names for the devil:

1. The wicked one, the evil one -- Matthew 13:19, 38; I John 5:18
2. The angel of the bottomless pit -- Revelation 9:11
3. The dragon -- Revelation 12:7
4. The beast -- Revelation 19:19

II. THE DEFEAT OF THE DEVIL - We can defeat the devil by:

- A. Using the Word of God – Matt. 4:4, 7, 10
- B. Putting on the whole armor of God. Eph. 6:11-18
- C. Resisting the devil -- James 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9
- D. Testifying and relying on the power of Christ's death – Rev. 12:11

III. HOW TO BE VICTORIOUS IN TEMPTATION

- A. Identify its source -- not God, but Satan -- James 1:13
- B. Realize your temptation is not unique -- I Cor. 10:13; Matt. 4:3
- C. Acknowledge there is a way of escape -- I Cor. 10:13
- D. Remember the Bible is your best weapon – Matt. 4:4-10; Heb. 4:12
- E. Remember Satan is a defeated enemy – Col. 2:15
- F. Realize that blessing comes after testing – Matt. 4:11; Luke 4:14
- G. Be assured that help is available if you fail -- I John 2:1

YOUR MOVE:

Assume a letter has been written to "Dear Abby"" inquiring why the writer is tempted and so frequently gives in. Write an answer a non-Christian can understand.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Lesson 4

I. READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE AS TWO YOUNG LOVERS READ AND STUDY EACH OTHER'S LETTERS

Samuel L. Brengle gives the following illustration: "As soon as the mail brings a letter from his sweetheart, the young man grabs it and without waiting to see if there is another letter for him, runs off to a corner and reads and laughs and rejoices over it and almost devours it. If he is a particularly desperate and demonstrative lover -- (the Lord makes us desperate and demonstrative lovers of our Lord Jesus Christ!) -- he will probably kiss it and carry it next to his heart until the next letter arrives.

"He meditates on it day and night, and reads it over again and again. He carries it downtown with him, and on the streetcar appears very quiet and thoughtful, till all at once a twinkle comes into his eye, out comes the letter, and choice portions are read over again. He delights in that letter. If any part is hard to understand, a letter is sent off immediately for an explanation and the explanation and letter will be most carefully compared, and possibly previous letters will also be studiously compared with this one." Now this is the way to read the Bible! Note some keys in this illustration:

- A. Realize that your lover (Jesus) has sent you letters of instruction, encouragement, and consolation.
- B. Read them over and over again
- C. Read them in your spare time (carry a pocket New Testament)
- D. Mediate on them (seasons of serious thoughtfulness)
- E. Compare Scripture with Scripture
- F. Pray and study when you do not understand a part of it

II. READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS -- GOD'S WORD.

We believe the Bible is inspired because:

- A. ***It says it is inspired*** 2 Timothy 3:16-17. In a court of law a defendant can take the witness stand for himself. Why should we not let the Bible witness for itself? -- 2 Peter 1:19-21
Jesus believed the Bible was inspired. Matt. 5:17-18

B. *The Bible has power to transform nations, cities, and people.*

Romans 1:16

D. *The Bible has marvelous unity.* Though written by nearly 40 authors of different occupations over a period of 1,500 years, it still has one unifying theme: the salvation of man through Jesus Christ –

I Peter 1: 20-21

E. *Prophecies have been fulfilled down to the last detail* -- the birth of Christ, his suffering, death and resurrection, are examples.

F. *The moral superiority of the Bible* far exceeds the sacred writings of other religions.

G. *No book has inspired people like the Bible.*

H. *The Bible is indestructible.* Powers have tried to destroy God's Word unsuccessfully -- 1 Peter 1:23

For example, Voltaire, the skeptic, predicted that God's Word would be swept into obscurity. But 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles.

III. READ IT EXPECTING IT TO DO SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE

A. *It discovers and convicts of sin*

1. 2 Timothy 3:16
2. Hebrews 4:12
3. I John 1: 9

B. *It cleanses from the pollution of sin*

1. Psalms 119:9
2. John 15:3
3. John 17:17
4. Ephesians 5:26-27

C. *It imparts strength*

1. Matthew 4:4
2. I Peter 2:2

D. *It instructs us in what we are to do*

1. Matthew 7:24-27
2. James 2:14-16

E. It provides us a spiritual weapon

1. Ephesians 6:17
2. Hebrews 4:12

F. It makes our lives fruitful

1. Joshua 1: 8
2. Psalms 1:2-3
3. John 15:1-8

G. It helps us in winning our families to Christ.

1. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

III. READ IT CAREFULLY, KEEPING THE LINE OF THOUGHT IN MIND FROM VERSE TO VERSE

Often the first part of one chapter belongs to the last section of the preceding chapter. In the original manuscripts of the Bible, there were no chapter divisions or punctuation. Chapter and verse divisions were made later in order to locate particular references. For example, in the book of Hebrews, chapters 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12 all begin with the transitional word "therefore" -- indicating these chapters each build upon the conclusion of the previous chapters. As you read the Scriptures, try to keep the whole thought of a paragraph in mind.

CONCLUSION:

Remember, don't get discouraged! You will not understand everything in the Bible immediately. But don't forget you have the promise of Jesus that the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth (John 16:13).

As a new convert, **begin reading** in the New Testament, preferably the Gospel of John. Read in a translation that is easy to understand, such as the New American Standard Version or the New International Version. Read the New Testament through two or three times before going to the Old Testament. **Underline** and write in your Bible when you get help or have questions. **Read** with your wife, husband, or a Christian friend. Get everything you can and you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of God.

God bless you as you start on your adventure in God's Word!

YOUR MOVE:

Select a portion of the Bible, a paragraph or chapter, for inductive study. Then:

- I. Select an appropriate title for it

II. Paraphrase it (rewrite it in your own words)

III. Apply it by identifying from it one or more of the following:

- A. a sin to confess
- B. a promise to claim
- C. a principle to follow
- D. a command to obey
- E. an example to model
- F. a stumbling block to avoid

HOW TO HAVE A CHRISTIAN HOME

Lesson 5

INTRODUCTION

Does marriage have a future? With divorce on the rampage and a growing number of unhappy marriages and homeless children, Christians must answer this question. As many as one of two marriages ends in divorce. Sociologists tell us the percentage would be two out of three were it not for children involved. For solutions to marriage problems, we must go to God's Word. It teaches us how to build happy homes and Christian relationships. This lesson deals with the question, "How can I have a Christian home?"

I. REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

A. *Marriage originated with God* -- Genesis 1:27-28: 2:18-25

God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit it for him."

1. In Genesis 2:22 we find what appears to be the first marriage ceremony officiated over by God Himself. We read, "And... God brought her to the man." In fact, the Bible begins with a wedding in Eden and ends with a wedding in heaven, that of Christ and his bride, the church.
2. God designed the home to be the place where personality and character are formed. Of all institutions in our culture, the home is by far the greatest influence on an individual. That is why God has laid down such careful guidelines regarding the sanctity of marriage and the family.

B. *Parents' responsibilities in the home are crucial.*

Parents are told to:

- 1) ***teach*** their children God's Word -- Deuteronomy 4:9
- 2) ***train*** their children how to live -- Proverbs 22:6
- 3) ***live as an example to the children*** -- I Kings 9:4

God wants more of parents than just sending their children to church. He wants parents who will live the Christian life as an example to their children as King David lived for God before Solomon. If children are not taught these things at home, where else can we expect them to learn?

II. ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

A. *Mutual responsibilities of husband and wife*

Paul's treatment of marriage in Ephesians 5 is introduced with these words: "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ" -- Ephesians 5:21

The foundation of a Christian marriage is the mutual submission of both husband and wife to the lordship of Christ -- and therefore submission to one another.

B. *Responsibilities of the husband*

1. *He must love his wife* -- Ephesians 5:25, 33; Colossians 3:19

In the Greek New Testament three different words are translated "love"

- a) *storge*, a love between mother and child and child and mother; also relates to animals and their instinct to protect and care for each other.
- b) *phileo*, from which we get "philanthropy," means love in the sense of human compassion and affection; friendship
- c) *agape*, which means love as measured by sacrifice (see I Corinthians 13 - agape is used in this chapter).
 1. Husbands are to love sacrificially as Christ loved the church.
 2. Husbands are to love patiently without being domineering or harsh (Colossians 3:19).
- d) *eros*, (not in the Bible) from which we get "erotic," speaks of passion, desire and sensuality

2. *He must be faithful to his wife* -- Matthew 19: 1- 9; I Corinthians 6:9

3. *He must honor his wife* -- Proverbs 31:28; I Peter 3:7

4. *He must provide for his family* -- I Timothy 5:8

5. *He must be sure that his wife and their children are placed first* -- even before his own father and mother – Ephesians 5: 1

According to the Bible, there is nothing more drastic that can happen than this "leaving and cleaving" of a man and wife. Such shows that a new relationship has begun. Relationships in the new family take precedence.

6. *He must lead in the religious instruction in the home.*

Here are some Old Testament examples of religious education in the home:

- a) Noah -- Genesis 8:20
- b) Abraham -- Genesis 12:7; 13:4
- c) Jacob -- Genesis 35:7
- d) Joshua -- Joshua 24:15
- e) See also Deuteronomy 6:6-8

C. Responsibilities of the wife

1. Submission

- a) The husband and wife are equal before God in the home -- Galatians 3:28. The Bible teaches that the man is to be the head of the home, but subordination does not mean inferiority (see the example of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-9).
- b) The woman is to be in submission to the husband -- Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; I Peter 3: 1.
The woman's submission is always balanced by her husband's deference to her will and well-being. Again, mutual submission (Ephesians 5:21) is the controlling principle. The emphasis is upon the husband's leadership role in the home.
- c) Submission to the husband is especially challenging when he is an unbeliever (I Peter 3:1-6). Faithfulness to Christ always prevails when submission to the unbelieving mate means to violate the commands of God (Matthew 10:34-39).

2. Family and home

Particularly in a home with children, the need for security and stability must be recognized.

- a) The "at home" duties of a woman and her household responsibilities must take precedence over other interests Titus 2:4-5; I Timothy 5:14.
- b) The inestimable value of a godly wife is acknowledged by the wise man in Proverbs 31:10-31. Her abilities in the world of commerce are obvious, but it is her concern for her "household" (Proverbs 31:15, 21, 27) which heads the list.

D. Responsibilities of parents to children

- 1. Parents should love their children -- Titus 2:4

2. Parents should instruct their children in godly living
Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21
3. Parents should refrain from provoking their children to anger
Ephesians 6:4
4. Parents should exercise godly discipline and control over their children.
Ephesians 6:4; I Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6

E. Responsibilities of children to parents

1. The children's responsibility to obey parents, like the responsibility of spouses to submit to one another, is rooted in the lordship of Christ. Eph. 6:1 exhorts children to obey their parents "in the Lord."
2. God is pleased by children who obey their parents (Colossians 3:20), and reserves a special blessing for those who do what is right by honoring their parents (Ephesians 6:2-3).
3. Children should give attention to the instruction of their parents, learning insight and wisdom for godly living -- Proverbs 4: 1- 4.

Let's do more than build houses. Let's build homes. Let us learn that our homes, as well as the church, can be a place of worship, blessing, and spiritual growth.

The churches of the New Testament era were chiefly "household churches" (Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2, etc.). John Wesley, the pioneer evangelist and founder of Methodism, saw the Christian family as the basic expression of the church.

YOUR MOVE:

The Christian home is a laboratory for Christianity, where Christ is invited to participate in the ongoing concerns of living. List the current, real, ongoing concerns of each member of your family. Pray for Christ's help in each of these concerns. At the first opportunity share your list with other family members and ask them to join you in prayer.