

How to Have Victory Over Sin

INTRODUCTION:

How many of you have ever been tempted and yielded to the temptation?

We all have. What I want to talk about is how to have victory over temptation.

When we think about the growth plan this in my mind would fall into the category of your relationship with yourself and how to overcome sin.

Pray

I. Two problems in overcoming sin.

A. Thinking you don't have any responsibility in overcoming sin.

1. When you became a Christian, it is like enlisting in the army to fight a spiritual battle.

But can you win the battle if you have the attitude that "the battle's already won, there is nothing I need to do, God will do it all?"

2. There is a difference between enlisting in the army (salvation) and participating in the battle. We all have a responsibility to fight in the battle.

1 Peter 5:8-9a "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, stand firm in the faith."

3. So we do have a role in fighting temptation.

B. Thinking you can win the battle on your own- in your own strength

1. John 5:4-5

"Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

2. 1 Cor. 15:57

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

3. These verses tell us that victory only comes as we depend upon Christ. We will lose if we try to fight the battle in our own strength.

4. Who was the only complete victor? 1 John 4:4

When Jesus cried, "It is finished", it was the shout of victory. He met sin and death and conquered it.

5. Every man will fail if He takes His eyes off the Lord (Hebrews 12:1-2)

- a. Abraham lied about his wife
- b. Moses lost his temper
- c. Elijah ran away in fear
- d. Peter denied the Lord

II. So how do we fight dependent upon Christ? (Living By Faith in Christ)

A. Believe that you can have victory.

1. 1 John 4:4

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

2. Because you are in Christ you can have victory.

3. if you believe that you can't have victory you are already defeated.

B. Do your part: Live by faith

1. Faith: believe what God says and live accordingly

a. To fear is to have more faith in your antagonist than in Christ

b. Men don't object to the battle if they are confident they will have victory and in Christ we can.

C. What do we need to do to act according to what God says?

What are the resources that God has given you to fight the battle?

1. God's Word-

in Eph. 6:17 when Paul describes the armor of God the bible is called the sword of the spirit. It is an offensive weapon that we have to use to win.

God's word helps us to stay connected to our commanding officer.

2 Tim. 2:4 "No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs, he wants to please his commanding officer." Read God's word and obey it.

2. Prayer- take your struggles to God and ask for His help.

3. Other believers and can encourage us, hold us accountable, pray with us.

III. Two different battlefields.

A. The Internal Battlefield

'An enemy inside the fort is far more dangerous than one on the outside.'

1. The battle of the old man versus the new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Romans 6:6

"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away that we should no longer be slaves to sin.'

2. The question is, "If the old self has been put to death, then why do I still struggle with sin?"

3. death in the bible means "separation", not that it ceases from existing. So when it says, "the old nature has been put to death", we are separated from it so that it doesn't have control over us any longer unless we allow it to.

4. We need to learn to stop listening to the old nature and learn to listen to God instead. That is why God's word is so important.

5. We need to learn to be transformed by the renewing of our minds and learn new habits. (Rom. 12:2)

B. The appetite

What you feed will grow and become strong

Galatians 5:16

"Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

C. Replace the old man with the new (Ephesians 4:22-24)

What are some internal struggles you have? What can you replace them with?

Covetousness - giving

Pride - humility

B. The External Battlefield

1 John 2:15-17

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them."

What are the things of this world that tempt you?

Pleasures: Hebrews 11:25

Wrong friends: 1 Corinthians 15:33

Lust: 2 Timothy 2:22

1. Every temptation you overcome will make you stronger. Every one you give in to will make you weaker.
2. Oftentimes we give in and rationalize it is just a little thing. It is not that big of a deal. Oftentimes, the little things are the hardest things to resist, but they can grow into bigger things.

Song of Solomon 2:15

"Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards."

- C. At times, we believe that no one else will know and so we give in. Psalm 139:1-4, Hebrews 4:13

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account."

- D. Remove yourself from things of this world that tempt you. 1 Corinthians 10:14, 2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee from idolatry. Flee from youthful lusts."

CONCLUSION

We CAN have victory, (1 Corinthians 10:13), but not when we are proud and self-sufficient (1 Corinthians 10:12)

Live each day remembering you are in a battle and you are the target.

Maintain your relationship with Christ; without Him, you are a defeated but through our relationship with Christ, you can have victory.

Be actively engaged in fighting the battle.

Determine to only feed the new man and not the old man

Remove yourself from things of this world that tempt you

Application

1. Do you believe you can have victory with God's help?

This is the first step. Perhaps you have failed so many times you don't think you can have victory. That is a lie from Satan.

2. What temptations are you struggling with?

a. admit the struggle

b. tell someone else- sin loses its power as it is brought to the light

c. spend time consistently with God in His word and prayer.

3. Make it hard to give in to temptation

a. maybe you need to change your friends

b. maybe you need to change where you hang out

c. maybe you need to change what you are putting into your mind

Small group questions

1. What temptations do you struggle with?

2. What is it about the temptation that is so appealing?

3. Do you believe you can have victory? Why/why not?

4. What have you tried to have victory? What happened?

5. What can you do to make it hard to sin?

6. What do you need to stop doing? What do you need to start doing?

7. Who will hold you accountable?