

HOW TO RESIST TEMPTATION & SIN PT.1

February 16, 2014

If you are a regenerated child of God, there is NO temptation that can overpower you.

There are only two ways temptation can overpower you:

- 1. willful choice*
- 2. neglect to prepare*

1. REGENERATION - without it you are powerless against sin's temptation

The new birth provides you with all the power you need to live godly in the midst of a wicked, sinful world.

John 3:1–8 ESV

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

You can be drawn to God, recognize the move of God, admire the people of God, yet not be born again.

3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Being born again:

- 1. brings the human spirit back to spiritual life from spiritual death*
- 2. is the birth of God's Spirit dwelling in the human spirit*
- 3. restores a spiritual union and communion with God*

2 Corinthians 5:17–18 ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

Being born again:

- 1. creates a spiritual hunger and thirst for God*
- 2. changes the purpose of life from pleasing self to pleasing God*
- 3. creates a repulsion to sin and a love for righteousness*

Philippians 2:13 ESV

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

When we are born again, God is actively at work in our spirit to:

1. *create the desire to please Him*
2. *give us the ability and power to please Him*

Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.

2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of
him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may
become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of
sinful desire.

Through the union and the communion of the new birth, our relationship with God is the channel through which He imparts His heart, His mind, His nature into our hearts.

Without this divine impartation, escaping the corruption of sinful desires is impossible.

Hebrews 13:20-21

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his
sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2. DENY SELF - *count the cost in advance, you must make a willful and deliberate choice*

Mark 8:34-35

34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will
come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Jesus never made it easy to follow Him; in fact, He made it supernaturally hard.

To follow Jesus, you must:

1. *DENY yourself...*
 - *Self has no authority and no control; you become a slave.*
 - *Self is no longer the one to be pleased and gratified.*

2. *take up your CROSS...*

The cross not only signifies certain death, but also:

- *pain, agony*
- *hated as a reproach and something to be despised*

Luke 14:27–33

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 11:28–30 ESV

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Romans 12:1

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Living sacrifices wholly surrender all:

1. *control*
2. *ownership*
3. *credit*

1 Peter 4:1-3

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

To teach His children the deepest surrender, God must take His children to the place where surrender hurts the most, the place of suffering. Surrender is thoroughly tested, exercised and matured in the process of pain, where surrender truly hurts.