

Three Keys To Victory

1Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

God's assurance ought to encourage Christians to endure

No temptation is greater than our ability to bear it

Satan only has power to entice us, not power to coerce us

God provides us with a means of escape

When temptation comes, we have an option other than sinning

God, with each temptation, provides way to successfully overcome

We do not have to fail the test because there is no other option

Weightlifters know that eventually more weight can be added to the bar than could be lifted

God does not allow that to happen to us in our battle with temptation

We deny God's revelation when we think, "The devil made me do it."

Each of us is responsible for finding the way of escape

This demands that we learn the areas in our lives that are vulnerable to Satan's temptations and actively seek God's escape route

Strength of character

When we feel ourselves being pulled toward something sinful, we must have the character & courage to "draw the line" and refuse to cross it

Can only be accomplished by a working knowledge of God's Word

We must be able to recall the solution from our study of the Word in order to find the way of escape

Psalms 119:11 *Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.*

We only "hide" those things we believe are valuable

Do you view God's Word as so valuable you will hide it where no one can take it from you: your heart?

Notice why the Psalmist hid it there, "that I might not sin against thee."

How important is not sinning to you?

We think too little of sin

We seldom contemplate its terrible consequences

We know what it is like to hate a sin we have already committed

Should develop the same intensity of feeling before sinning so that the act can be prevented.

Psalms 119:104 *From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*

Fear of sin

Joseph early in life decided he would not be immoral before God

Genesis 39:9 *There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?"*

Joseph understood sin is offense against goodness of God Himself

Joseph demonstrates need to make decisions ahead of time rather than "in the heat of battle."

Waiting until the moment of temptation to decide what to do may well prove our undoing

Consider the cost of sin: the blood of God's only Son

He was made to be sin for us

2Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

If thinking about the cost it took to redeem us does not persuade us to "be afraid" of sin and strive to sin not; nothing else will

Know our limits

This is the outgrowth of personal self-examination

Christian does not see how close to sin can get without sinning

1Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Like boater seeing how close to waterfall can get without going over

Will quickly learn even best can allow passions to get out of control

This is why young people do not need to be parked on a dark lane or be alone in a house with the opposite sex

Might begin as apparently innocent matter can quickly turn into sin

1Thessalonians 5:22 abstain from every form of evil.

This principle also applies about whom we date

Dangerous to date one you know has no Scriptural right to marry

In too many cases, emotion overrules Scripture

Now we hear, "I cannot give this person up, I love him."

We do not "limit" the opportunity to sin when we act in these ways

Are you ready to defeat sin?

Times when we have allowed temptation to give birth to sin in our lives

Let godly sorrow lead to repentance

Let experience lead us to seek the way of escape the next time

Bill Feist