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5 Assurances Series
Assurance of Victory
1 Corinthians 10:13

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No temptation has taken you except what is common to man.
And God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear,
but when you are tempted he will also provide a way out
so that you can stand up under it.

How can we have more Assurance of Victory?

Start and End with God.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - no temptation has taken you except what is common to man. And God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Escape

Endure

Identify the Real Enemy

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

Identify the Victories.

Behave

1 Timothy 5:1-2 do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father, treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women and sisters, with absolute purity.

Prepare

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Rest

Mark 6:31 - Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." 32 so they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

Confide

Galatians 6:2 – Bear one another's burdens, and in so doing you fulfill the law of Christ.

Love

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Remember why you are here.

Get back up.

Draw Close to Jesus.

Hebrews 4:16-17 - for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, it was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of Grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find help **in our time of need.**

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1 Corinthians 10:13 - incredibly powerful verse!

Read

Brief Exegesis

The study does a really good job of examining the key points of temptation.

God has victory over temptation available.

Praise the Lord! Thank You, Lord!

But you need to participate with God.

But the word “victory” implies a battle. If you do not pay attention to the battle part, you will not have the victory.

Today I want to talk about the Assurance of Victory
(Pray)

Temptations – 3 general areas.

- **Matthew 4** – Jesus’ temptation in the desert – Physical drives, Pride, Possessions
- **1 John 2:15-16** – Physical drives, Possessions, Pride.

Common to us all – Physical, Possessions, Pride

Dr. Rhoades - sermon on overcoming anxiety. 20-something ways!

The more tools in your toolbox, the better.

God gives us many different paths to Victory over Temptation. Like the Assurance of Salvation and the Assurance of Answered Prayer, the Assurance of Victory is not a slam dunk. The level of your assurance will vary depending on your response.

Pastoral Perspectives, not Theological Perspective

How can we have more Assurance of Victory?

Start and End with God.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - no temptation has taken you except what is common to man. And God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

God is there every step of the way.

Escape if you can.

Gambling addiction. Alcohol.

Can you escape all of these? Not forever.

Bear it, stand up under it. (allow some temptation)

But you often will not be able to just escape.

Endure temptation if you can - it's what Jesus did.

This is something most Bible studies miss about Jesus's temptations.

He had to endure temptation, but not be overcome by it.

Lots of Temptations are part of life. We must accept it and endure it.

Identify the Real Enemy

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

Who are you fighting, anyway?

We think the problem is the other person or the circumstance.

It's really not.

But when we fight the wrong battle, we feel justified in our bitterness, justified for our rage and anger, justified for our brawling and slander, and justified for our malice.

But when you fight the right battle, you fight for the other person against Satan. You and the other person are on the same side fighting our common foe, our true foe.

And as Long as we fight the wrong battle, we will aim for victory in the wrong realm. You might actually win the victory in the wrong realm, and be defeated in the real battle.

Jesus says don't do the eye-for-eye, tooth-for-tooth battle. He says to **ble**ss and **pr**ay for your enemy. **Fe**ed your enemy, give him something to **dr**ink.

- **Wives**, when you discover pornography on your husband's phone, you will be *tempted* to say your husband is the enemy. or do you battle Satan in prayer? You will attack your husband instead of praying for him
- **Husbands**, when your wives get angry at you for no apparent reason, you will be *tempted* to demonize your wife rather than Satan. You will attack your wife instead of praying for er.
- When you see **racial prejudice** in the world, You will be *tempted* to demonize the other race rather than Satan. You will attack the other race rather than praying for them.
- When your **friend betrays you**, you will be *tempted* to demonize your friend rather than Satan. You will attack your friend rather than praying for him or her.

So Identify the Real Enemy

Identify the Victories.

(Speaking pastorally, not theologically)

One of your temptations will be to focus on your failures.

The reality is, your life is a combination of countless victories and defeats. Satan would want you to focus on defeats to render you ineffective, and keep you defeated.

If you see yourself as having overcome many temptations, you will see the next temptation as something you can also overcome. The temptation will still be very difficult, but your attitude will be that, with God's help, I can overcome this temptation too!

Identify ...

- the many times you didn't chase after women.
- apology and forgiveness restored relationships.
 - Think of how rewarding that reconciliation was.
- you were kind to your enemy - blessed, prayed, fed. Treat them with honor, respect, as better than yourself.
 - Think of how satisfying it felt to take the high road.
- Said "No" to your passions and served others instead.

Illus: someone did not eat for 3 days.

Build on these victories!

Behave rightly through temptation if you can.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father, treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women and sisters, with absolute purity.

I've never heard any sermon on this before, but I think I need to say it.

"Treat" is behavior.

Behavior is a type of Victory.

To treat with respect and honor is a BIG part of victory over temptation.

You will face temptations at work, at pot lucks, family reunions, on the road. And yes, at church.

You will be tempted

- to let **gossip** to *steal* another person's reputation and honor.
- with **attractions to people**.
- to **accuse** and **judge** superficially because if *feels* good.

Behave means **use self-control** to do that which **God wants**.

Prepare for temptation if you can.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

A big part of victory! - Mentally, Spiritually, Emotionally.

- Know yourself – vulnerabilities (personality, temperament)
- Know others. Know your circumstance.
- Know the situation – expectations.

Much of falling into temptation has to do with expectation. Get to know how people are. When you get to know them, people are pretty predictable. And some people should come with a warning label!

Illus: Body armor.

Rest if you can. Fatigue makes you vulnerable to temptations.

Mark 6:31 - Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." 32 so they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

If you're ...

- *exhausted* you will be more easily tempted to snap and lose your temper.
- *fatigued* you will feel a stronger temptation to get a dopamine hit by shopping for something looking at pornography.
- *stressed*, you will be more tempted to hit the bottle to calm down.

Intentional rest is a much better solution.

Confide if you can.

Galatians 6:2 – Bear one another's burdens, and in so doing you fulfill the law of Christ.

One kind of unbearable burden is the torment of temptation. God uses others to strengthen you. From time to time I will receive a phone call out of the blue from a person who says they need prayer. Sometimes they need it now. Sometimes for something coming up.

Temptation loses its power when you can confess it to a confidant.

That's why I talk and confess my temptations to my Counselor, Spiritual Director and Accountability Group.

When you can confide in somebody, you know this person is for you, on your side, will cheer for you, pray for you, and will be there for you. That is enormously empowering.

And unexpectedly, in your confidant you find someone who understands all the stuff you just shared with him or her.

Love if you can.

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Love replaces and washes corrupt hearts. Love not only covers over a multitude of sins. Love also changes your view of temptation.

Love completely changes your focus!

Are you angry at the person? Love them. Are you lusting for person? Love them.

Why is love so powerful?

Because Love is not about what the other person does or feels, but it's about what you do and feel. **Love puts you in control.**

Did you get that?

Love puts you in control!

Love is always solution-oriented, never victim oriented. You might have been a victim, but God has a solution. It is love.

Remember why you are here.

- Your Victory has a testimony and bears fruit. So does your sin.
- Temptation is the space between Victory and Sin.

- In that space, remember why you are here.
- *Your example ...*
 - tells the man trapped in *fits of rage* that he too can have the Victory.
 - tells the woman trapped by *bitter resentment* that she too can have the Victory.
 - Tells the *substance addict* that they too can have the Victory.
- You believed a man hanging on a cross when He told you your taking up your cross will be worth it ... for eternity.

Get back up if you can.

Despite all our efforts to never sin, we will sin. In a way you need to make peace with that.

Not make peace with sin but make peace with your failure. Get back up. Confess your sin, let Jesus purify you completely.

But that's okay. God's grace is sufficient for me.

That Jesus wash you clean. Receive his forgiveness. We will talk more about forgiveness next week.

Draw Close to Jesus. Quickly.

He knows. He strengthens. He draws near, not turns away.

Hebrews 4:16-17 - for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, it was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of Grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find help in our time of need.

Conversation with my Spiritual Director Re temptations

- I was troubled by a temptation that tormented me.
- I wanted to be so Christlike that I would no longer be tempted.
- Christlikeness requires I go through temptation.
- God came into the world to experience temptation.
- Temptation was bringing me closer to Christ, not farther.

If every test of temptation proves I love God more than my drives, my possessions, and my pride, I am willing to face the tests of temptations.

(Pray)