



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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PAY ATTENTION TO TEMPTATION!

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We want to take our Scripture text today from **1st Corinthians 10:12**, **"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."** It is just as necessary today to take heed to this statement as when the apostle Paul spoke it. For we, like all who have gone before us, are fallen, tempt-able, and subject to thinking and doing what is wrong. Very few teachings of Scripture have more practical implications for day-to-day living as this one. Opportunities for temptation are almost endless. And since human nature is not getting any better, nor are any of us immune to the corrupted appetites of the flesh: therefore we need to take Paul's warning seriously and watch out for temptation, or we too will surely fall. The Word of God offers several alternatives for dealing with temptation if we will only search for it. We should all avoid temptation whenever possible. We are warned by Solomon in **Proverbs 4:14-15**, **"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by, turn from it, and pass away."** If we dissect this passage of Scripture we are warned, enter not in the path of the wicked, nor go the way in which evil men have previously gone. We are told to avoid the wicked path and to turn from it. Never cast our eyes steadily upon the evil path. Instinctively, as a believer, we know to turn from the evil path: however, Satan will seek to use others to coerce us into the

wrong path. Solomon declared in **Proverbs 1:10**, **"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."** Often time's people will try to break down your Holy Ghost convictions, attempting to get you to do something that your conscience dictates you should never do or accept. In the world this is better known as peer pressure. Peer pressure can be a terrible thing even among more mature saints. More times than not, the Holy Ghost preempts us beforehand whether or not a certain set of circumstances is likely to lead us into sin or harm's way. How can I make such a statement? Because Paul declared in the next verse **1st Corinthians 10:13**, **"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted the above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."** The problem with most believers is very simple; they never seek the door of escape concerning temptation. Satan is forever seeking to burn down our house and destroy our lives. Knowing this as a child of God, we should consistently look for the fire escape or door to be delivered from evil and its temptation. Remember whatever your temptation might be, it is common to all men. You are not the only one that has ever encountered this evil and

temptation. Paul assures the child of God, that God is faithful and He will not allow you to be tempted above that which you can bear. Rather, God will take the temptation which Satan has meant for evil and the Holy Spirit will direct you in the way of escape so that you may bear up under the gravity or weight of the temptation. More times than not, the way of escape has already been made as soon as the temptation arises? As a child of God, we must simply look for the way of escape. Besides using the Word of God, we must quickly yield ourselves to the Lord's Christ in the moment of temptation. The apostle James declared here in **James 4:7-8**, **"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."** If in the time of temptation we seek to submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, he will leave you. You say that's too simple: Satan and the Lord Jesus Christ cannot abide in the same room very long. As believers, it is our responsibility to encourage one another and strengthen one another to stay away from evil. As a Minister, it is my responsibility to help you in overcoming your temptations by preaching a pure unadulterated word. When preaching the Word of God and communicating the truth it helps to reduce the weakness that you may possess. Remember Jesus admonished the apostle Peter to strengthen the brethren following his coming failure. Jesus said to the apostle Peter here in **Luke 22:31-32**, **"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon,**

behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthened thy brethren." One of the great blessings in this passage of Scripture is not only as a Minister, but each and every one of us as believers, possess the power to strengthen one another. The very reason Christ sent them out two by two was if one was discouraged the other would be able to encourage their co-laborer. Let me point out the danger of human behavior and temptation. Supposed you were placed in a position of handling money every day and a very dire and grievous situation presented itself in your life. You may be tempted to take some money and succumb to the outside pressures. Your heart says you will put the money back when you get it, but something always impedes your godly intentions. In that circumstance or situation we should approach our supervisor or manager and explain our difficult situation. I learned a long time ago when confronted with temptation or a grievous circumstance; when we are honest with ourselves and God, He blesses and repays with compassion. No one can trick God. There is no greater way to receive favor from God than living with clean hands and a pure heart. God always honors and exalts righteousness: because that is His nature. Throughout the Word of God the apostle Paul warns the Corinthians and his young son in the faith Timothy, to flee sexual immorality, greed, and lust. If I shared the many Scriptures the apostle Paul gave concerning sexual immorality paper and ink would not suffice. Chronic temptation is something we need to confess and offer to Christ, and ask for His cleansing work. Some temptations are powerful inner struggles, with thoughts and attitudes

that graphically remind us of how fallen we are. What should we do with that kind of temptation? Rather than deny it or try to repress it, we should bring it to Christ. I once read a statement somewhere, *"If we keep praying we will stop sinning, if we stop praying we will keep sinning."* What a profundity concerning our humanity. We must resist temptation until it leaves us. When Jesus Christ was tempted by the devil, He resisted the devil until Satan went away. Jesus is our example concerning sin and temptation. This is why Christ as God was manifested in the flesh so that He might fully and completely understand our humanity in the time of temptation. This is why the apostle Paul declared in **Hebrews 4:15**, **"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."** Paul is assuring the child of God that not only is Christ our high priest but He has the ability to sympathize and demonstrate unfathomable compassion in our weakness. He was touched with the feelings of our infirmities or our fragility. The difference between Christ and us is that He did it without sin and regretfully we cannot always say that. I've often made this statement and it has helped thousands throughout the years, *"it is a terrible thing to sin and fall but it is far worse to remain there."* Get up in the name of Jesus Christ and continue to walk by faith and not by what you see. Solomon said in **Proverbs 24:16**, **"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again."** I don't know if you have ever thought about this but, if we are to forgive someone 490 times in a day how much more will our heavenly Father forgive us of our sins if we will only confess them. Notice the words of Christ found here in **Matthew 18:21-22**, **"Then came Peter to him,**

and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." No wonder the psalmist David declared Christ was plenteous in redemption. Reading from **Psalms 130: 7**, **"Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.** I must also share **Psalms 130:3-4**, **"If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."** You can always find forgiveness by the leadership of the Holy Ghost if you will simply humble yourselves and repent. The two most precious words in the world I have come to understand is, repentance and redemption: they go hand-in-hand concerning the child of God. None of us have ever received our just reward according to **Psalms 103:10**, **"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities."** There is no greater feeling than knowing every sin is under the blood of the Lamb and our hearts and hands are pure. The psalmist asked the question in **Psalms 24:3-4**, **"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."** If you are living according to this passage you will stand in the holy hill of Christ our Lord. Please beware of temptation. As always, we humbly thank you for your generous love and support for the ministry. You are helping us to make an impact around the world.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford