

Victory over Sin

I. Introduction

- a. The problem of sin -
 - i. It leads to death James 1:12-15
 - ii. In the world (Rom 1:29-32)
 - 1. War, oppression, murder, cruelty, lying, stealing, raping,
 - 2. All because of sin
 - iii. In homes (Gen 4:8)
 - iv. In the church (James 4:1-4)
 - v. In my life (Gal. 5:16-21)
- b. God intends for us to have victory over sin
 - i. If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Genesis 4:7

II. Four conditions for victory over sin

III. Conditions for Victory

- i. Be alert ,
 - 1. We are in a battle,
 - a. neutrality is not an option
 - b. Failure to take sides will result in destruction
(SQUIRREL IN THE ROAD)
 - c. Satan does not fight fair!
 - 2. 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - 3. If we do not know we are being tempted we may sin without even making a conscious decision to do so
 - a. Denying we have a problem with sin
 - b. Oblivious to our own sins
 - c. Slaves to sinful habits
 - 4. Dangerous attitudes:
 - a. Immunity to temptation in general
 - b. Immunity to certain temptations
 - c. Overconfidence in ability to handle temptation
- ii. Be armed – Ephesians 6:10-18
 - 1. Truth – personal integrity
 - a. Accept your own insufficiency
 - b. Do not try to hide your weaknesses or past failings
 - c. Know the true source of our strength v. 10
 - 2. Righteousness
 - a. Have all past sins taken care of
 - b. Be right with God
 - 3. Gospel of Peace
 - a. Know what God thinks of us and others
 - b. Know the true value of our souls
 - c. Those who are pursuing others for God are better prepared to avoid temptation

4. Faith
 - a. Trust in God and His commands no matter what
 - b. We can walk through fire if God says so
 - c. “If God says to jump through a wall, it’s my job to jump and God’s job to make the hole”
 5. Salvation
 - a. Know you have been saved
 - b. Measure the value of each thing by this test: is it worth my head/soul/salvation?
 6. The Word of God
 - a. Know it
 - b. Live it
 7. All Prayer
 - a. Pray for victory over temptation
 - b. Pray to thank God when you succeed
 - c. Pray for forgiveness when you fail
 - d. Pray always!
- iii. Be active
1. Sword practice – 1 Samuel 17:38-39
 - a. The armor of God is not comfortable or easy to use
 - b. Skill takes time
 - c. Many, many mistakes and corrections must be made before mastery is achieved
 - d. Get instruction BEFORE we are tempted – Psalm 119:11
 - e. Make judgments and commitments BEFORE we are tempted – Hebrews 5:13-14
 - i. Learn from Bible characters/events
 - ii. Learn from events around us
 2. Deal with the temptation as quickly as possible
 - a. Notice the progression in James 1:14-15
 - b. Identify problems in the early stages
 - i. Desire stage – Know where you are easily led astray and take steps to avoid temptation (Romans 13:14)
 - ii. Temptation stage – Consciously identify a situation as a temptation to sin and use the armor of God to defend against it
 - iii. Sin stage – Consciously acknowledge your failure, repent, confess, and obtain forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
 - iv. Death stage – Mortal damage has been done to our souls and we are unable to fight any more.
 - c. The sooner we deal with it the better
- iv. Don’t be alone
1. Soldier in battle – isolation means great danger
 2. Eccl. 4:9-12 – two are better than one

3. Get help from brothers and sisters in Christ
 - a. There are habits we can get involved in that are very difficult to escape on our own
 - i. Alcohol/Drugs
 - ii. Gambling
 - iii. Sexual addictions
 - b. There are many other compulsive behaviors that can entrap us in sin or weaken us spiritually
 - i. Lying
 - ii. Anger/Rage
 - iii. Ungodly speech
 - iv. Abuse
 - v. Fear/Anxiety
 - vi. Sinful relationships
 - vii. Overworking
 - viii. Overeating
 - ix. Overspending
 - c. God doesn't expect us to overcome these problems alone
 - i. That's why He gave us a spiritual family
 - ii. Confess our sins to one another – James 5:16
 - iii. Restore and bear – Gal. 6:1-2
 - iv. Hold each other accountable – Heb 12:11-13
 - d. Study and support group
 - i. Those seeking to get free of habitual sin
 - ii. Those who want encouragement and accountability from caring and supportive brethren
 - iii. Those who are seeking strength to deal with the attacks of Satan that they are currently facing or which they are still healing from
 - iv. If you would like to be a part of that, please let me know
4. Not from the world!
 - a. The world will only encourage sin
 - b. They don't see anything wrong with it

- IV. Conclusion
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:56-58
 - b. Tools for Triumph over Temptation
 - i. Be Alert
 - ii. Be Armed
 - iii. Be Active
 - iv. Don't Be Alone
 - c. The Armor of God
 - i. Truth

- ii. Righteousness
 - iii. The Gospel
 - iv. Faith
 - v. Salvation
 - vi. The Word of God
 - vii. Prayer
- d. Invitation