

"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 04

APRIL 2008

PAGE 1

Lead Us Not Into Temptation (Matthew 6:13)



What the Bible reveals about temptation

We have been taught by Jesus to pray "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:13). We are even commanded that we "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak" (Matthew 26:41). Several denominations have turned it into a ritualistic prayer while others use it as a pattern to pray. Nonetheless, we pray it in some form. Please keep in mind that these words do not mean for God to cease from tempting us but rather for us to be lead away by God from our own temptation, for we of ourselves cannot cease from partaking of the temptation, which then leads to sin. As we see, it is because our flesh is weak and tends to give in.

What is the source of temptation?

First off, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man" (James 1:13).

The answer is in 1 Thessalonians 3:5. "For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain." There is one being known as the tempter. Though we may not claim, "The devil made me do it," he does hold the responsibility for tempting us.

Now keep in mind that temptation would not have an affect if we did not have the desire of selfish gratification. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:14). The only reason temptation has any power over us is because of the lust in our

heart. Why do people give in to gluttony? Because inside us, we desire to eat because it tastes good, therefore, the devil waves the food in our face. "All you can eat!" "Buy one, get one free!" "Super size it!"

So the source is the devil, but he only has that power because of the lustful desires within.

Shall we give up?

Many Christians claim that it is human nature to give into the lusts thereof. "As long as we do not commit 'big' sins, we are OK." So a person does not commit adultery yet is a glutton. Where in the Bible does God say one sin is less offensive to Him than another? James wrote, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all" (James 2:10).

It is the devil's lie to make people believe that someone cannot overcome temptation. "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 above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

How shall we overcome?

First, you have read that God allows you to be tempted to the point of which you can handle. You will not receive more than you can handle. The stress you may feel and the desire to scream, "I can't take it anymore!" is the growing part. It is then that you are weakest and need to turn to Him most.

Second, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (2 Peter 2:9).

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PO Box 10607
Harrisburg, PA 17105

717-249-8785 (TSTL)

WWW.TSTL.NET

Info@tstl.net

COPYRIGHT:

This publication is **free** and free to copy. Your tax-deductible donations are needed and greatly appreciated.

Do You Have A TSTL For That???

If someone asked you "why do you believe that or why do you do that" could you give them an answer from the Bible — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Debt Reduction Progress

Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 accumulated in ministry debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when we personally could not sustain this ministry.

Jerry had lost his employment due to religious conflict. Without that income we were not able to sustain this ministry and so the debt accumulated.

Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment, but in order to recover financially it requires him to work very long hours. Can you help eliminate this ministry debt faster?

OVERALL STATS:

\$80,000 Starting Balance

- **8,895** Readership

- **26,718** O'Donnell's

\$44,387 Current Balance

MAR. STATS:

\$51,903 Prior Balance

- **520** Readership


- **6,996** O'Donnell's


\$44,387 Current Balance

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

WEB SITES TO CONSIDER

 **TSTL.NET** is for the general public

 **TSTL4MINISTERS.NET** is for any minister, bible worker, teacher, etc.

 **TSTL4CHILDREN.NET** is for the children and is currently in the process of being transferred over from TSTL.NET

The conclusion is that if a person is giving in to temptation, then there is need to be concerned. The godly are delivered and do not give in to temptation. So if one claims to be saved, they might just hold off on that victory dance. If you truly are, you will be delivered and not be giving into temptations "For he that is dead is freed from sin" (Romans 6:7). "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:18). "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Romans 6:22). "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (1 Peter 4:1).

As you are noticing, it is a belief beyond the fact that you believe Jesus is God. It is beyond the fact that Jesus saves. He utterly saves. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). That is a complete saving process beyond a guarantee in heaven.

This does not mean that if you sin once there is no hope for God says, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). The concern is more of the continuing in the sin. This is not an allowance to sin and confess, sin again and confess the same sin again, and again, and again.

But there is still hope. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

How is it that Jesus is willing to help us?

"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:18). Temptation is nothing to keep to yourself. Go to Jesus and pray for deliverance. He suffered great temptations and has the ability to help us in our temptations.

And what is better than a friend who sympathizes with you because they were once an addict, Jesus who lives as "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" (Hebrews 4:15). He shows us that we can have a life without sin, just as John pleaded with us that we "sin not".

Why get upset?

Many people get upset when they are tempted. They may state, "Why is God doing this to me?" "Why am I being harassed?" "Why am I the one to suffer?" "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" (James 1:2). "Blessed [is] the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12). "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:6).

Please note that it does not state that you fall into sin. Be happy that you are being tempted. You have been chosen to be an example either now before earthly witnesses or to be used in the judgment. People may be watching to see how a Christian handles a crisis. Be glad that you have been chosen of heaven to be that example. But if none are watching, keep in mind that there will probably be people missing out of entering into everlasting life. They may even try to claim that they had it so rough. But there is your life that says, "I too had it rough but I made it through!"

Also, never say, "If I were better off, I would..." God has an answer to this. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (1 Timothy 6:9). So being better off is not a guarantee for victory.

How shall we serve the Lord?

"Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews" (Acts 20:19).

So we may suffer in this life with tears and definitely temptations. Just count it all joy.

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



Love God

1. Why should Christians not get upset when things do not go the way they think it should go? **Romans 8:28**
2. If we love God, what expression will not come from us towards others? **1 John 4:20**
3. If we love God, what shall a Christian keep? **1 John 5:2**
4. If we love God, Jesus, what else shall we keep? **John 14:23**
5. If we love God and keep what we are to keep, what shall we receive? **Exodus 20:6**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

I believe?

1. If you believe, what are you? **Acts 16:31** "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
2. Who also believes? **James 2:19** "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."
3. What word in this verse makes believing in Jesus not a single event and a permanent saving but rather a longer relationship with a future guarantee? **Acts 15:11** "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."
4. How long does your belief need to endure until you are guaranteed heaven? **Matthew 10:22, Matthew 24:13, Mark 13:13** "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."
5. If you believe, what event will you participate in? **Mark 16:16** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
6. How powerful is belief in Jesus? **1 John 5:5** "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



Sleep

Proverbs 3:24

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Proverbs 20:13

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, [and] thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

God has a balance when it comes to sleep. Get the right amount to do your body good but do not get too much else you become slothful.

If you regularly get the recommended seven to eight hours a night, you actually cause harm to your body by sleeping in on the weekends. Figuring that you do not have to get up so early actually interrupts the daily routine that is best for the body.

And not getting enough sleep also causes a whole host of problems, not to mention being more prone to sin. For when you do not get enough sleep you are off your guard and tend to be less tolerant and more irritable.

So keep balanced and keep healthy.

Think On These Things

What You Think Is The Real You

For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee. (Proverbs 23:7)

Many claim that we are not under the Ten Commandments, which makes Christianity appear easier than the Jewish religion, but in reality, even Jesus made it tougher than what the Pharisees practiced. Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28).

The thought of sinning is when a person needs to seek forgiveness. Keep in mind that temptation is not sin and we all suffer that, but those that plan out the execution of it but do not execute it are the ones who have already sinned. Pharisees watched their actions. God's people watch their thoughts. And if their thoughts are right, their actions will be right also. So watch what you think about and what you feed your minds to think about.

APRIL 2008

**Victory Over
Temptation!**

(Main Article)



**How Important
Is Sleep?**

(Health—page 3)



**What You Think
Is The Real You**

*(Think On These Things—
page 3)*



**WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?
AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?** (Isaiah 53:1)



» SOURCE: Mail On Sunday

DATE: February 28, 2008

TITLE: 36 year old moves in with 16 year old with parent's permission

When Alison Garcia, 16, announced that she was leaving home to be with her 36-year-old lover, her parents could have been forgiven for hitting the roof. Last month, they invited divorced double-glazing fitter and father-of-one Craig Wright into their home, where he now shares a bedroom with their daughter. "If I forbid it or attempt to ban her from seeing him, I risk losing my precious child.

COMMENT: Ezekiel 18:5, 9 *"But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, ..., Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he [is] just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD."* Since when do we act out of fear of consequences when it comes to obedience.

» SOURCE: World Net Daily

DATE: February 20, 2008

TITLE: Basketball champs refuse to play on Sabbath

Winning the Northern Front Range League title in Class 2A basketball competition with a 13-1 record this year, again will not be participating in the Colorado High School Activities Association's state competition. The team, the league champion for the fourth year, instead, is playing at a tournament for Seventh-day Adventist schools in Nebraska, according to a report in the Denver Post.

COMMENT: *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness"* (Ephesians 6:14). Whatever you believe from the Bible, in this case it is the fourth commandment, make no compromise.
