



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

Victory Over Temptation: Strength in Christ's Word

OPENING & PRAYER:

In today's message, we embarked on a journey to understand the victories that Jesus has brought us, particularly focusing on the victory over temptation. As we approach Easter, the ultimate celebration of victory over death, hell, and the grave, it's crucial to recognize the daily victories we can achieve through Christ. Temptation is a universal challenge, one that every person faces in various forms, whether it be food, money, or other desires. The story of Adam and Eve in Genesis illustrates how temptation can lead to downfall when we are not grounded in God's word. Eve's misinterpretation of God's command shows the importance of knowing and understanding scripture to resist temptation.

"Father, as we study temptations and what Jesus went through, show us where we may fall short so we may grow in those areas. We know you fill that gap and we thank you for it. But expose those that work against us and speak to us as we begin to identify and fight with Your Word.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:1-6

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world— the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

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

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." Matthew 4:1-3

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 2 Peter 1:3

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' " Matthew 4:4

3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. 13 You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him and shall take oaths in His name.

Deuteronomy 6:13

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " Matthew 4:5-6

Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you

dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. Psalms 91:10-13

Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' " Matthew 4:7

"You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah. Deuteronomy 6:16

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:8-9

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. Matthew 4:10-11

13 You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him and shall take oaths in His name. Deuteronomy 6:13

GO DEEPER:

We explored how Jesus, unlike Adam and Eve, successfully resisted temptation. In Matthew 4, Jesus faced the devil's temptations in the wilderness, demonstrating the power of scripture and a steadfast spirit. The devil's tactics included questioning Jesus' identity, appealing to his physical needs, and offering worldly power. Yet, Jesus responded with scripture, showing that victory over temptation lies in knowing God's word and standing firm in our identity in Christ.

The key to overcoming temptation is not just about avoiding sin but understanding the nature of our desires and aligning them with God's will. We must be vigilant, recognizing that what often appears as an upgrade is actually a downgrade. Temptation can blind us, leading us to make choices that seem beneficial but ultimately lead us away from God's purpose. By setting boundaries and staying far from the line of sin, we can protect ourselves from falling into temptation.

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. According to Matthew 4:1-11, what were the three temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness, and how did He respond to each one? [\[29:17\]](#)
2. What does the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 reveal about the nature of temptation and the importance of knowing God's word? How does this compare to Jesus' response to temptation in Matthew 4? [\[10:22\]](#)
3. Think about a time when you felt your identity in Christ was under attack. How did you handle it, and what can you do to strengthen your understanding of who you are in Christ? [\[29:17\]](#)
4. Consider how well you know God's word. What is one specific action you can take to deepen your understanding of scripture to better resist temptation? [\[10:22\]](#)
5. Spend some time alone with God this week. What specific practices can you incorporate into this time to allow God to work in your heart and free you from temptation? [\[47:57\]](#)

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, we thank you for Your Word and guidance. We know our identity is wrapped in You, but the devil is a liar. Shine light on the darkness that tries to tempt us away from you. As we continue to study Your Word throughout this week, let us be the light to those around us and they too will come to grow closer to you as they fight their battles.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."