



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

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Recognizing and Overcoming Temptation

By Brian Mitchell



Is it possible to recognize temptation and overcome it before it overcomes us? The answer is yes, but there are some important principles we must understand. A man was on a diet and he was struggling. He had to go downtown and as he started out, he remembered that his route would take him by his favorite doughnut shop. As he got closer, he thought that a cup of coffee would hit the spot; what could that hurt right? Then he remembered his diet and that's when he prayed; "Lord, if You want me to stop for a doughnut and coffee, let there be a parking place right in front of the shop."

"Sure enough, I found a parking place right in front—on my seventh time around the block!" He didn't really want the Lord's help in overcoming temptation, he wanted permission. As Robert Orben once said, "Most people want to be delivered from temptation, but many would still like it to keep in touch" (Reader's Digest [8/86], p. 35). If one really wants to overcome the temptation to sin the first place to start is to make sure that we are not part of the problem. We must make sure that we are not the one that is placing the enticement in our path.

As we consider the subject of temptation, especially as it relates to sin, we must second come to understand that temptation is inevitable. James says, "*blessed is the man who endures temptation*" and "*let no one say when he is tempted*" (James 1:12- 13). James leaves no question that temptation's assault will come for us all. Just as he does in dealing with trials in general, James here says, "When tempted..." not "If tempted." Just like death and taxes, trials and temptations are inevitable in this life. We will never be without temptation in life even though the more we mature in our faith the less common they may be.

And thus, the second key to overcoming temptation is the acknowledgment that we are all susceptible to it. Remember Peter saying, "*Lord, even if I must die, I will never deny you.*" What did he do? He denied Jesus three times. The Apostle Paul warns the Corinthians to "*let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall*" (1 Corinthians 10:12). Peter thought he could stand up under any temptation to deny Jesus and thus because he did not think he could fall, but he did. No one is above the powers of temptation and it is our acknowledgment of that fact that actually makes them easier to overcome.

The third key to overcoming temptation is to realize and acknowledge their true source. According to James, "*each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed*" (James 1:14). James teaches us that it is our own sinful desires that lay the groundwork for temptation. James does not here mention the role of the devil in man's temptations. That is not to say that the enemy does not play a role in temptation, but that James wants us to realize and acknowledge our role in them.

Temptation requires two essential parts—desire plus temptation. While someone or something may place an enticement to sin in our path, if there is no desire there is no temptation. If you take someone who has never done drugs in their life and has no desire to do so and place a pound of cocaine in front of them there would be no temptation because there is no desire. And so, the point is simple, the third key to overcoming temptation is to rid ourselves of our sinful desires by bringing all of our desires into line with God's will for our lives.

Temptations to sin affect us all but that does not excuse our sins. Why? Because the Bible says that with God's help, we can both recognize and overcome any temptation that comes our way (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Looking in the Wrong Places

It's frustrating when we have misplaced something important and cannot find it. We search and search for that which is lost, hoping it can be found. The frustration of the search is compounded in that we often keep looking in the wrong places.

As a Christian, there may be times when one feels like something is missing in their walk with God. What is missing could be (and often is) described as a truly fulfilling experience as a Christian.

Sometimes we may search for that which we think is missing in inspiring sermons by the preacher. Week after week, we look to a man's presentation of the Word of God to provide the something missing in our walk with God. Sermons can indeed inspire, instruct, challenge and correct. However, if we are looking for sermons to provide lasting fulfillment as a child of God, we are going to be often disappointed.

Others search for the missing part in the congregation's singing. Songs sung with lots of voices and beautiful melodies are certainly nice to hear. It is wonderful when songs are sung in tune with encouraging or comforting words. While songs can indeed inspire, they are not the source for true and lasting fulfillment as a Christian.

A number of Christians look for fulfillment in large congregations. More voices singing. More people in classes adding comments. More hands to shake and hugs to give and receive. However, true and lasting fulfillment as a Christian will not always be found in large congregations, nor in those that are small.

What about social activities with other Christians? It's fun to get together with others to share meals, or have potlucks at the park, or participate in game nights. However, sad to say, this too will not give us lasting fulfillment as a child of God. In fact, we can find these same types of activities in a softball league or other secular social events.

So where is one to look? I would suggest one look to the cross. It is there we see the love of God (John 3:16). It is there we see the price for our sins being paid (Acts 20:28). It is at the cross we find the meaning of sacrifice (Matthew 16:24). It is at the cross we will find what has been missing in our walk with God.

Yes, preachers can point us to the cross. Yes, songs can remind us of the cross. Yes, relationships with other Christians can help us to remember the cross. However, the cross must be found and remembered by each individual as they seek to develop a deep, personal relationship with God. This way, when the preacher has a bad week (and he will), when the song leader leads off-key (and he will), when there are not a lot of people, or the people let us down (and they will), when there are no social events planned – then we can find the cross all on our own.

~ By John M. Buttrey II

AMERICA

What do you see when you look at the word "America?" What mental pictures do the seven letters create in your mind?

To me the capital letter "A" suggests our magnificent snow-covered mountain peaks, and the wigwams of the original Americans.

The letter "M" symbolizes the broad shoulders of our pioneers; shoulders-to-the-wheel pushing our frontiers westward; broad shoulders swinging axes, building a Nation.

The letter "E" might be the lariats of the cowboys riding the plains; lariats of Kit Carson or Buffalo Bill.

The letter "R" is a man with hand outstretched in friendship and cooperation toward all who love freedom, justice and peace.

The letter "I" represents the individual American with his rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The letter "C" is a bent bow from which an arrow had just sped toward the stars of mankind's highest ideals.

The final letter "A" is a man on his knees in prayer, symbolizing a Nation which recognizes its Creator and gives thanks for His blessings.

Yes, America is a beautiful word!

via Beech Grove church of Christ ~ Spring Hill, TN



PRAYER LIST



Olivia Pounders is dealing with health issues.
William Wilson, brother of *Gloria Jones* has had cancer to return.

Perry Jones received a good report from his recent tests.

Ronnie Miller, father of *Amanda Coggin* is not doing well.

Brad & April Pounders have recovered from the Coronavirus.

Lynsey & Nathan Robertson, daughter and son-in-law of *Terry & Yolanda Stubblefield* have recovered from the Coronavirus.

Expectant Mothers

Kelsey Petrowski: boy, Aug.

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct.



Continue to Remember:

Kathy Clayton, Shane Crotts, J.L. Eaton, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Bill & Grace Lyon, Sue Marques, Ronnie Miller, Nancy Petrowski, Jerry Robbins, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Dixie White, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski,

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter, J.D. Stroud

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Andy Dye, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

I've Learned...

"Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- August 19..... Kim Clayton
- August 19..... Kyleigh Sweezer
- August 20..... Phillip Young
- August 30..... Richard Adams
- August 30..... Alyce Jennings
- August 30..... Troy Robertson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- August 18..... Shane & Barbara Crotts
- August 21..... Roger & Kathy Clayton
- August 29..... Larry & Janet Drummond



5TH SUNDAY GUEST SPEAKER

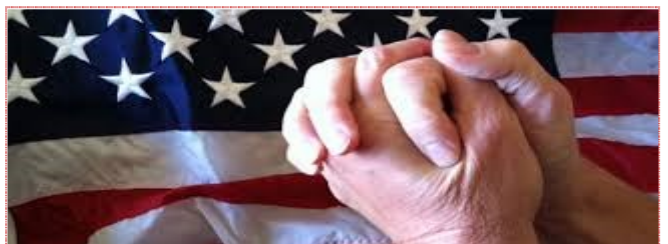
Please join us August 30th, for our 5th Sunday service. We will have guest speaker *Lonnie Jones* with us. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us in person (if able) or by livestream. While we are not able at this time to enjoy a meal together and an evening service due to the virus we are blessed to have an opportunity to come together and worship our God and hear a lesson from Bro. *Lonnie*.

DEACON'S MEETING

The deacon's will meet for their monthly meeting Sunday, August 23rd, at 8:30am.

AREA EVENTS

- The East Main Church of Christ will host a Personal Evangelism Seminar August 21-22. The speakers will be *Rob and Nicole Whitacre*. They work with House to House Heart to Heart in Jacksonville, Al. The first session begins at 7:00pm Fri. and then Sat. at 9:00am.



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 32

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....
 Morning Worship.....9:30
 Evening Worship.....
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Tim Dye.....316-2527
 Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Mark Jennings....731-609-3309
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Communion.....Greg Clayton
 Scripture.....Clay Jennings
 A.M. Prayer.....Randy Wall
 Closing.....Thomas Wall
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed. 19th ..J. Jennings/Tim Dye
 Lock.....Randy Wall
 UsherRandy Wall
 SecurityMatt Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....87
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Toilet Tissue

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

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After the Lockdown

Without a doubt, Covid-19 has given us something the like of which no one can recall. It seems that not a single nation has escaped. And when this pandemic is mixed with all the political infighting in America, it becomes truly volatile.

The part that troubles me most has to do with church assemblies. Or the lack thereof. I'm thankful for technology that provides even stop-gap and limited solutions. Yet, there's a real danger here and I believe Satan has his hand in it, big time.

God in His wisdom knew that humans depend on close-knit fellowship, so he planned for us to meet together in congregational settings. This allows for a depth of comradeship that no amount of livestreaming can bring to the table.

It is not the strong, hardcore Christian that I fear for; rather the peripheral church member who after being absent for several months, will become satisfied with just staying home.

That being said, when the restrictions are lifted, we'll have serious work to do down in the trenches-work that we should have done more of all along. We must be making plans to reach out to such people and see that they are not permanently disconnected from us.

The bright side of this? The disruption may furnish us with a reason to hit the reset button and take a serious look at fresh ways of managing the local body of Christians. For too long we have measured strength much like a business might: the number of heads that show up and the amount of money they leave.

Unless I've completely misread the New Testament, the Sunday assembly was not used as an evangelistic tool, but like a "pit stop" for us to refuel so we can then be equipped to go back out and touch the world.

Let's all be thinking of good ways to capture the attention of a nation of people who feel their very foundation shaking beneath them, and help them plant their feet on solid ground.

~ Ken Joines