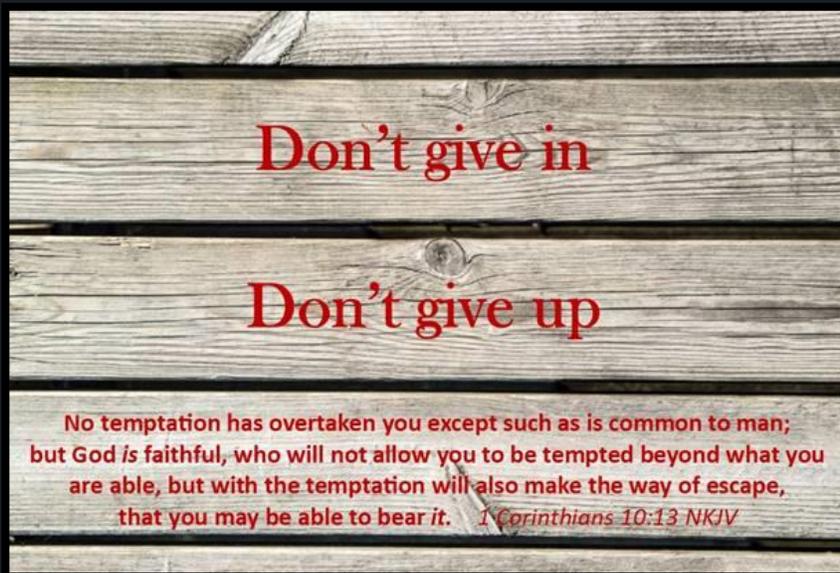


SUN CITY SERMON NOTES

20 . 01 . 19



THE TRUTH OF TEMPTATION

TEMPTATION COMES

The fact is that temptation comes to everyone. It is often about instant gratification and if we follow through it is not without consequence. Temptation can come at any time, from anyone. It often comes from past connections and situations that were never designed for our best. Temptation brings with it a strong argument, to go back, or continue with current wrong choices. When we sense it, we are tempted to isolate rather than come before the throne of grace (empowerment) or call those who can help because we know what they could, should say.

Temptation can be a powerful and blinding thing. Recall these situations where those involved succumbed to temptation and consider the consequences that followed:

- Eve – sinful nature the result
- David – Bathsheba – the lies, murder, etc
- Samson – Delilah – strength lost
- Achan – just could not leave all the plunder behind – consequences much wider than Achan

Stimulating Wholesome Thinking

1. We have the power of Christ in us to overcome temptation.
2. God's plans for us are truth and light
3. There was not one temptation that Jesus didn't face.

He is able to help.

Temptation comes with it the art of excuse making to continue the connection. The further we step backwards, the weaker we get and the harder the journey back becomes.

- 'I'll only do it once'
- 'A little bit won't hurt'
- 'Everyone else is doing it'
- 'I can still say 'no''
- 'I'll just have a quick look'
- 'Flirting doesn't hurt'
- 'I've come this far; a bit further won't hurt'
- 'I've been good for so long, this won't hurt'

These situations can quickly grow out of control, especially if we stay isolated in it. Authenticity finds a trusted person and asks for help understanding both sides: 1) that everyone is dealing with something at some time and 2) we need God in every area of our lives. He can see everything; He knows what we are thinking, before we think it.

TEMPTATION DOES NOT DISQUALIFY BUT NEEDS TO BE OVERCOME.

Temptation in and of itself does not disqualify us, but if we keep it hidden, it gets stronger, deeper and can lead to depths of darkness and self-destruction. Prayer life will slow as shame, guilt and isolation grow. God's plans for us are truth and light so in this, we can help each other by speaking with someone before it gets out of control. This breaks the cycle of shame and guilt as it is brought to the light; where there is a genuine honesty in the brokenness.

There was not one temptation that Jesus didn't face AND He is able to help. Jesus understands it, He gets it but since temptation is not from God He also, with temptation, helps by providing a way out while we are working through, overcoming – that we can continue to stand whilst 'under' it.

[1 Corinthians 10:13.](#)

[Hebrews 4:15: 'For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.'](#)

SOURCE OF TEMPTATION

[James 1:13-18: 'Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.'](#)

HOW WE DEAL WITH IT:

1. Realise there is a way out so that we are not overtaken by it; realise the power of Christ in us to overcome it and realise that we are not on our own – there are people we can trust for support through it.

Colossians 3:9-10: *'Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.'*

2 Corinthians 8:21: *'providing honourable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.'*

John 8:31-32: *'Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

The truth of God's word provides total liberty. The only things He asks us not to do are those things that harm us and others and His reputation.

2. Create a culture of honesty, transparency, accountability, authenticity. Asking someone you trust to help you overcome breaks the mindsets that hold us captive and isolate us, but this also protects us. (Illustration: phalanx/Roman guards shielding another whilst that one may use their spear).
3. Create an environment of protection where integrity, honour and authenticity are impenetrable. When we say 'no to ungodliness' there are far greater benefits from the better choice made for us and those around us.

1 Corinthians 10:13: *'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.'*

Temptation is common; Jesus was tempted on all points as we are but sinned not. If we are tempted, at the right time God will provide a way of escape; we must be ready to take that way and not give in, not give up. With the power of Christ in us and the help of the right others around us we can place integrity, honesty and authenticity *in front of desire*.

Titus 2:11-14: *¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.'*