

David Part 11 | David & Bathsheba | Pastor Steve Wells | 10.13.2019
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Memory Verse: James 1:14 (NLT)

“Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.”

Read and discuss the following study by Charles Stanley with In Touch Ministries. After, discuss some of the temptations we face and how we can avoid them.

Charles Stanley: Temptation is inevitable in this life. Therefore, we should do all we can to be prepared. The Word of God teaches that believers can stand firm against sin through the power of the Lord.

Loving Limitations

God is intimately involved in the life of every believer. He does not expect us to bear the burden of temptation alone.

- Some people excuse their sin by claiming that their particular temptation is unique—and by implication—irresistible. What is wrong with this rationale ([1 Cor. 10:13](#))?
- What two-part promise does Paul give believers regarding temptation (1 Cor. 10:13)?
- What did Satan have to do before “sifting” (tempting) Peter ([Luke 22:31-32](#))?

In the realm of temptation, we often think of God and Satan as equal in power but opposite in nature. However, the devil is under God’s authority. The Father promises to keep a watchful eye on the *nature* and *intensity* of the temptations you face. Those who believe they are at Satan’s mercy deny themselves victory because they never make more than a halfhearted attempt to overcome temptation. This belief opens the door for all kinds of excuses: “I can’t help it;” “The devil made me do it;” “There was no way I could say no.”

According to [1 Corinthians 10:13](#), every temptation has an accompanying escape hatch. Fleeing the situation *physically* won’t always be the answer. But if you know you are going to face a particular enticement and sincerely want to escape it, ask God to show you how.

A Way Out

God’s ultimate desire is that we would face temptation but not give in.

- What was Jesus’ prayer regarding His followers’ exposure to the world and, by extension, its enticements ([John 17:14-15](#))?
- Why do you think Christ didn’t simply ask the Father to shield us from all tempting situations?

God doesn’t promise to rearrange our lives so that we never experience temptation. However, He does limit it and provide a way out.

Where are you?

Take a few moments to honestly consider your answers to the following:

- Do you truly believe God allows you to be tempted only within the confines of what He knows you can bear?
- Do you believe He provides a way of escape from every temptation?
- If not, which of your experiences make the promises in 1 Corinthians 10:13 hard to believe?

If you have difficulty accepting the promises in the verse above, take some time to meditate on the passage. Ask God to help you re-interpret your past from His perspective. Pray that He will give you the faith to believe He will provide an escape route the next time you are tempted.

Power to Overcome

The Bible teaches that each of us is born under the dominion of sin ([Rom. 5:17-19](#)). All people have an innate desire to rebel against our Creator—and against authority in general. Until we surrender our lives to Christ, our

attitudes and actions are controlled through the desires of the flesh. This is why those who have not trusted Jesus as Savior do not have the power to consistently overcome temptation in their lives.

- What does [Ephesians 6:10-11](#) reveal about how believers can stand against the devil's schemes?
- What is the relationship between a believer and sin ([Rom. 6:1-3](#))?

Sin still exists as an *influence* in the life of a believer, but it no longer has the power to *force* the child of God to do or think anything.

- Read [Romans 6:11-12](#). How does this change your perspective about your ability to resist sin?
- Express in your own words the kind of life God's power enables us to have ([Rom. 6:4](#)).

The power that raised Christ from the dead is available to you every day. If you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you can say no to your fleshly (sinful) desires ([Rom. 8:11-13](#)).

Closing: Meditate on this simple statement: *I am dead to sin and alive to God*. Repeat it under your breath throughout your daily activities. Say it out loud when you are tempted. Use every opportunity to get this simple yet life-changing principle ingrained in your mind. When that familiar temptation comes up again, you may *feel* the same—but God's power to overcome is available.

Prayer: Father, thank You for delivering me from the power of sin. Help me learn to lean on Your strength in battling temptation. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Adapted from "[Winning the War Within: Facing Trials, Temptations, and Inner Struggles](#)" (1988).

Avoid the Roof:

David wandered the roof—bored and alone—this led to his sin.

- What are some ways we wander roofs today?
- What are some safeguards we can take for us personally and for our children? (ie. Content Restrictions on phones, disable private browsing, no phones in your bedrooms, shared lock screen passwords, spontaneous checks of kids phones, no private or extra email or social media accounts under pseudonyms.)
- What are others areas of our life (other than sexually explicit content) where we "wander the rooftops" that can lead us to sin? (Unhealthy eating, Relationships, Financial, Addictions, More???)
- What can you do to avoid these potential temptations?