

HOW TO HAVE VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

Introduction:

It is inevitable that temptations would come upon the whole world (Rev. 3:10). Yet, God promises that Christian can be "rescued" from them (II Pet. 2:9), "aided" in temptation (Heb. 2:18), and provided a means of "escape" and "endurance" when tempted (I Cor. 10:13). Being tempted, IN ITSELF, IS not sin, for even Jesus was tempted (Matt. 4:1). It's GIVING IN to temptation where sin happens. How can we avoid sinning when tempted?

I. PRAYER

- A. Matt. 6:13. Where does Jesus say we should pray to be led?
- B. Matt. 26:40-41. What does Jesus say will happen when we "watch and pray?"

II. STUDYING THE BIBLE

Psalm 119:9,11. What will happen when a person has God's Word "hidden" in his heart?

III. AVOID WRONG COMPANIONS

- A. I Cor. 15:33. What can associating with wrong companions do to a person's character?
- B. Prov. 1:10-16. What should we do when people talk to us about doing wrong things?
- C. Prov. 22:24-25. Why is it dangerous to associate with people who are not trying to serve God?

IV. THINKING ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD

- A. Phil. 4:8. What are some of the things a Christian should be thinking about during the day?
- B. Psalm 1:1-2. How frequently should a person be thinking about God's law?

V. CONTROLLING THE USE OF YOUR EYES

- A. Psalm 101:3-4. How does what we see affect our being tempted?
- B. Job 31:1. Is it possible to control what we look at? Can we control what we THINK about when we see something?

VI. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MATERIAL THINGS

I Tim. 6:9-10. How does "wanting things" lead to temptation and eventually sin?

VII. DEVELOP SELF CONTROL

- A. James 1:13-15. Who is responsible for our being tempted? Unless checked, what can this lead to?
- B. I Cor. 7:3-5. What should married couples do in order to avoid being tempted to sin sexually?

VIII. BE CONSTANTLY ALERT

- A. Gal. 6:1. How could our involvement in trying to help someone caught in sin become a temptation to us?
- B. I Pet. 5:8-9. Why is failing to keep alert so dangerous?

Other discussion questions?

- 1. What situations prove the most tempting to you?*
- 2. What measures have you taken to keep temptations from leading you into sin?*
- 3. Why do some people seem to be plagued by temptations more than others?*