

Souls for Christ Ministries Presents: New Believer's Lessons

Lesson #4 Dealing with Sin and Temptation

In this lesson you will learn:

- What should be changing in your life
- How to overcome sin and temptation
- If the devil is real
- About the stages of sin

Now that you have a new relationship with Christ your moral standards have changed.

Our morality is different because our lives are now hidden with Christ in God.

Our moral standards are new and having been sanctified, our daily walk should exemplify Christ in all we do.

Here's what should be changing in your life:

- ❖ Your present behavior should now be under the control of the Holy Spirit. All your thoughts, emotions, and words should all reflect your new relationship with God. When you gave your heart to Jesus you willingly yielded your life to Christ, allowing him to take his place of ownership in your life.
Ephesians 1:13b says *"Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."*
- ❖ When we obey God and his Word, we fully understand that old patterns of living are now wrong. From now on our patterns of thought, talk and our walk should model righteous living.
Galatians 5:25 says: *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."*
- ❖ We must go from pleasing ourselves to pleasing God, in all our ways.
Psalms 128:1 says: *"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways."*
- ❖ Moral excellence means that you live free from deliberate sinful habits or actions that affect your new life in Christ.
Galatians 5:1 says: *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery."*
- ❖ We have a new way of dealing with temptation. God's Word is vital if we are to overcome temptations. We must begin memorizing God's Word to overcome our temptations and thoughts that cause us to stumble. We must learn to break the chains (our enemy) the devil tries to bind us with. We must put on the full armor of God to overcome all the fiery arrows the devil throws at us.
Read **Ephesians 6:10-18** It tells us how to put on the full armour of God.

- ❖ Since having committed our lives to Christ, God has made us new alive spiritually bound for heaven.
2 Corinthians 5:17 says: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*
- ❖ Even though we have a new nature the old nature still exists and must be controlled. Old habits must be broken by choice of our will. We must learn to submit control of our entire lives to God.
James 4:7 says: *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

God has provided a way for us to deal with Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13 says: *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand under it.”*

The Bible tells us that there are fruits of Darkness and Fruits of Righteousness:

Fruit of Darkness

Drunkenness
Debauchery ↓
(excessive indulgence)
Impurity/Sexual Immortality
Idolatry
Greed
Obscenity/foolish talk

Fruits of Righteousness

Goodness
Righteousness
Purity
Truth
Thanksgiving
Love in the Holy Spirit

The things that oppose the fruit of the Spirit are destructive and separate us from God. The fruit of the Spirit are given to us in **Galatians 5:22-23** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such there is no law.”*

If we have the fruit of the Spirit, it will keep us from sure failure.

Colossians 3:5 says: *“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”*

Remember!!

The quicker you deal with old habits, the easier it becomes to get them under control, and under the blood of Christ. As we grow in our relationship with Christ we must live in obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

In **2 Corinthians 7:1** says: *“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”*

Purity by definition means learning to walk, talk, and think like Jesus.

When we lived in darkness we thought like a person living in the darkness, but now we are children of the light. We must put off old ways and patterns of living.

Romans 13:11-14 says: *“And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”*

Is the Devil Real?

It is necessary that we learn how to deal with temptation early in our walk with Christ.

But how do we deal with temptations that come our way as we walk with our Lord?

Have you ever heard someone say *“no one knows what I go through or could possibly understand all that has happened to me, I reject the idea of a literal “Devil”, he’s not real!”*

The Bible teaches us the devil is real and has come to rob, destroy and kill us.

Here are some Bible verses that prove the existence of Satan

2 Corinthians 11:14 says: *“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”*

Luke 10:18-19 Jesus says: *“He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”*

Romans 13:12 says: *“The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”*

I Timothy 6:12 Paul tells Timothy: *“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

Matthew 4: 1-10 tells us that Jesus was lead into the desert and tempted by Satan 40 days and nights. Read theses verses in your Bible.

I Chronicles 21:1 says: *“Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.”*

Bible verses that prove the existence of Satan continued

James 4:7 says: *“Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”.*

Many of these verses help us understand we have an enemy waring against our soul. The Bible is very explicit about a Satanic kingdom.

Mark 4:15 says: *“Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.”*

This verse speaks of Satan snatching away the word from the hearts of those that don't protect against it.

Luke 22:31-32 says: *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

This verse speaks of Satan trying to sift, or put Simon through a great trial but the Lord prayed that his faith would not fail.

Romans 16:20 says: *“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.”*

I Peter 5:8 says: *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

Revelation 20:2 says: *“He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”*

Revelation 20:7-8 says: *“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle...”*

Revelation 20:10 says: *“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet and been thrown...”*

2 Corinthians 2:11 Paul says: *“in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not aware of his schemes.”*

Temptation, should we worry about it? How do we overcome temptation?

Temptation is enticement to sin.

Key things to remember about temptation

1. Temptation itself is not sin; Jesus himself was tempted and did not sin. Read: **Matthew 4:1**
2. Jesus never promised to take away your temptation; he just said he would help you overcome it. Read: **1 John 4:4**
3. When you are tempted, God promised he would provide a way out so you can stand up under it. Read: **1 Corinthians 10:13**
4. Memorizing the Bible keeps it hidden in your heart and brings victory.
Psalm 119:11 says: *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you".*

Remember

- ❖ We need to endure trials and temptation to grow.
- ❖ Often growth comes out of suffering.
- ❖ No temptation is overcome without endurance. **Psalm 103** teaches us to praise God no matter what.

The book of James tells us that perseverance in trials helps to perfect our faith.

James 1:12 says: *"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."*

Note a few things here:

- ❖ Through trials God strengthens and tests our faith. God does not allow them to rob your faith or to see if you have faith, but to strengthen it.
- ❖ **James 1:13** says: *"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;"*
- ❖ Perseverance is the result of the process of testing. Read: **James 1:12-14**
- ❖ Maturity is the goal and the end result in temptation that changes us.

Finally let us learn the stages of sin so we are prepared to recognize them as they come. Stages of Sin according to **James 1:13-15**.

Curiosity Stage verse 13

During this first stage of sin the devil often uses our past failures to lure us into temptation through our own evil desires. As he watches us, he traps us when he learns our weaknesses and patterns of temptation. Each time we yield, it allows him spiritual ground in our lives.



Consider this, what has the devil ever done for you that you would listen to him?

Enticement Stage verse 14

During this stage the mind becomes the battlefield, we begin justifying our behaviours, old sins creep in and we begin telling ourselves God doesn't know, he's forgotten. Our sin won't matter.



Are you careful what you watch, what your eyes take in? Garbage in, garbage out.

Do you listen to any music that comes your way, even if it does not glorify God or may grieve the Holy Spirit's work in your life?

Who do you associate with?

1 Corinthians 15:33 says: *"Do not be misled; "Bad company corrupts good character."*

Birth Stage verse 15: a

This is the stage of the so called secret sins, hidden practices begin, and rationalizations. Disobedience grows and constant practice will result in a spiritual separation from God. Any disobedience at this stage begins to take serious root.



James 1:15a says: *"Then, after desire has conceived. it gives birth to sin..."*

Sin Maturity Stage verse 15: b

Satan wants you to mature in sin, to grow, mature and become totally defeated.

He wants you to live a defeated Christian life, fruitless, quiet and without being a witness for Christ.



During this stage as we mature in sin, it produces larger separation from God to the point where we are no longer pursuing him.

Luke 10:19 Jesus says: *"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."*

Remember, you are what you believe you are. When the devil tells you otherwise, tell him you've already won. You just need to believe it.

The Death Stage **verse 15: c**

By now there is a realization you've become trapped in your sin with no escape.
So now what?

Sin has a way of trapping us, but we must free ourselves again.

We must not go beyond the boundaries of God's Word or our conscience becomes seared.



Freedom comes again with repentance and confession. Below are steps to take back our freedom in Christ:

1. We need to **Resist** the devil. Read: **James 4:7**
2. We must quickly **Renounce** participation in any sinful practices. Read: **Ephesians 6:11**
3. We need to **Confess** our sins. Read: **1 John 1:9**
4. We must **Forgive** as God forgave us, ourselves and others. Read: **1 John 1:8-9**

Conclusion

Recognize sin and Satan's plan. Learn a counter attack using the **Bible** and **prayer**.

*Lesson #7 has more teaching about the **Bible**. Lesson #14 has more teaching about **Prayer**.*

Quote scripture memorize it and apply it to your life. You can't win alone in your own strength you must have the armor of God. You must flee the appearance of evil. Do not conform. Practice righteous living, enjoy Christ and live by the fruit of the Spirit. Learn to be obedient.

Questions for you about this lesson **Please look up the following verses in your Bible**

1. How should we offer our bodies unto God? Read: **Romans 12:1-2**
2. The Bible teaches us not to yield to what? Read: **Romans 6:19**
3. How do we resist the devil? Read: **James 4:7**
4. What are the pieces of the armour of God? Read: **Ephesians 6:1-20**

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Bible verses taken from the New International Version