



Sermon Series: Dealing with Temptation

To be used with Session 6: The Strength to Stand Against Temptation

Sermon Title Possibilities: The Fortification for Temptation

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Dealing with Temptation” this sermon teaches that God equips us with everything we need to stand our ground against temptation. Satan is seeking to use everything within his power to distract us from the things of God, to deter us from walking with God, and to divert us from serving God. However, we have the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God to help us deal with temptation.

Introduction: While the apostle Paul was in a dungeon chained to a Roman soldier, he wrote to the saints at Ephesus. He told them about the believer’s spiritual fortune in Ephesians 1. He told them about the believer’s spiritual framework in Ephesians 2. He told them about the believer’s spiritual favor in Ephesians 3. He told them about the believer’s spiritual fellowship in Ephesians 4. He told them about the believer’s fullness in Ephesians 5, and about the believer’s spiritual fight in Ephesians 6. In this message, we consider the necessary connection, covering, and communion to deal with temptation.

1. We Must Have the Necessary Connection (vv. 10-12)

The CSB translation says, “Be strengthened by the Lord,” but the old King James says, “Be strong in the Lord.” However way you translate it, it speaks of our connection with Christ. The late Dr. Adrian Rogers used to say that “Christ gave His life for us, then He placed His life in us so that He could live His life through us.” No person without Christ can stand against the “tactics of the devil.” The unsaved person is left to the direction of Satan and the domination of self (Eph. 2:1-3). But we are in the Lord and the Lord is in us. We have the right connection. We have the power and potential to stand against temptation.

2. We Must Put on the Necessary Covering (vv. 13-16)

Paul exhorts his reader—as well as us—to “put on the full armor of God.” He described the armor in terms of the Roman soldier’s battle apparel. He told us to put on truth (like a belt), righteousness (like a breastplate), the gospel (like spiked

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sandals), faith (like a shield), and salvation (like a helmet). These components point to the written Word and the Living Word—Jesus Christ. In another place, Paul exhorted us to put on the Word (Col. 3:16-17) and to put on Christ (Rom. 13;14). The Living Word and the written Word are the necessary coverage to help us stand against Satan and temptation. We are fighting, wrestling, and battling against “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.”

3. We Must Maintain the Necessary Communion (vv. 17-18)

Paul said that we need the sword of the Spirit, “which is the Word of God.” Here, he speaks of the *rhema* word. It is a word from the Word for warfare. Jesus illustrated this when the devil tempted Him. In answering each temptation, Jesus quoted Scripture, referencing it with “it is written.” We need to be so filled with the Word that when the tempter comes, we can answer him with a word from the Word. Let us make a commitment to read the Word daily and memorize Scripture weekly. Then there is the other side of communion. You see when we read, study, meditate on, and memorize Scripture, God talks to us. But when we pray, we talk to God. This two-way communication strengthens our personal relationship with Him. In verse 10, Paul exhorted us to pray with regularity (pray at all times), to pray with authority (in the Spirit), to pray with variety (with every prayer and request), to pray with continuity (and stay alert with this with all perseverance), and to pray with inclusivity (and intercession for all saints). Prayer is one of the keys to winning the battle against Satan and temptation.

Conclusion: I heard about a man who bought a winning horse from Kentucky. He took the horse back to Arkansas to enter him in some horse races. The championship horse couldn’t win in Arkansas. The new owner went back to the previous owner and asked what the problem was. After watching some film, the previous owner noticed that the horse was running without his blinders on. He told him to put him on some blinders because he was distracted by the crowds and the competitors. Once he started running with the blinders, the horse never lost another race. Sometimes we are stumbling and falling, and not winning in our walk with God because we are too distracted by the stuff around us. We need to get some blinders that will help us stay focused on Christ. Putting on the armor, putting in the Word, and praying through our battles will help us be victorious against Satan and temptation.

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