

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 firstfruits of His creatures. James 1:13-18 NKJV

**Fighting for our Family
Addiction—The Secret Destroyer—Part Two**

Introduction/Review: Last week we took a high elevation fly over the issue of addiction. (Gambling, Drugs, Pornography/Sex, Alcohol)

1. **Brutal Reality** (devastation)

"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, leave you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay." (Steve Jarrar)

2. **Primary Culprits**

- a. **Superficial**

- Mask Pain
- Bad Company

- b. **Root**

- Satan
- Self
- Sin

3. **Hope of the Father's Love**

Today—fly closer—everyday reality of addiction

1. God's word to the addict
2. God's warning to the rest
3. God's healing for the devastated
4. God's challenge to His Church

I. God's Word to the Addict

A. You are not alone and there is hope.

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. 1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT

B. He is not mad at you.

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Romans 8:33-35 NKJV

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 NKJV

C. He will pick you up when you stumble.

For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity. Proverbs 24:16 NKJV

D. Victory is available for your addiction

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 NKJV

1. Not blabbing my sin
2. Not super-spiritual deliverance (it can happen)
3. Its counsel, support, prayer, accountability, resources

E. God wants to restore

I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:18-24 NKJV

1. Righteousness of Christ—robe
2. Ring—an heir again to the Father's estate even though he squandered his inheritance
3. Sandals—son, not a servant
4. Feast—celebrate recovery

F. How does it come?

1. By word of truth

Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. James 1:18 NKJV

2. Sets us free

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 NKJV

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:36 NKJV

(ILL) Order to chaos (Genesis)

3. Word that restores also must sustain

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. Hebrews 11:3 NKJV

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:1-3 NKJV

- a. Faith by Word—Romans 10:17
- b. Washed by the Word—Ephesians 5:26
- c. Transformed by the Word—Romans 12:1, 2
- d. Emboldened by the Word—

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV

God's Word to the addict

II. God's Warning for the Rest

A. Stay in the Word (Hide in my heart).

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalms 119:11 NKJV

B. Guard your heart.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:23 NLT

C. Watch your company.

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." 1 Corinthians 15:33 NKJV

D. Stay away from evil.

Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV

E. Fall in love with Jesus, not the world.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17 NKJV

F. Don't get arrogant

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV

III. God's Healing for the Devastated

A. Some have lost people you love.

B. Others have family bound by addiction.

C. Allow Him to comfort you so you can comfort others.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NKJV

1. He knows how you feel.
2. He is close to you.

***The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.
Psalms 34:18 NKJV***

D. Practical

1. Don't beat up yourself.
2. Don't give up on God's grace.
3. Don't cover up your pain.
4. Don't let go of Jesus!

IV. God's Call to His Church

- A. The way it used to be is not the way it is.
- B. We aren't a club—we are the Body of Christ! Act like Him!

***But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!
Jeremiah 9:24 NLT***

3-legged stool

1. Unfailing Love (mercy)
2. Justice (call it sin)
3. Righteousness (confess, forgive, pursue Him)

Conclusion: May we make a difference in our families, in our community, and to those bound by the secret destroyer.

Parable of Christ's Sacrifice

The mother of a nine-year-old boy named Mark received a phone call in the middle of the afternoon. It was the teacher from her son's school.

"Mrs. Smith, something unusual happened today in your son's third grade class. Your son did something that surprised me so much that I thought you should know about it immediately." The mother began to grow worried.

The teacher continued, "Nothing like this has happened in all my years of teaching. This morning I was teaching a lesson on creative writing. And as I always do, I tell the story of the ant and the grasshopper:

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"The ant works hard all summer and stores up plenty of food. But the grasshopper plays all summer and does no work.

"Then winter comes. The grasshopper begins to starve because he has no food. So he begins to beg, 'Please Mr. Ant, you have much food. Please let me eat, too.'" Then I said, "Boys and girls, your job is to write the ending to the story."

"Your son, Mark, raised his hand. 'Teacher, may I draw a picture?'"

"Well, yes, Mark, if you like, you may draw a picture. But first you must write the ending to the story."

"As in all the years past, most of the students said the ant shared his food through the winter, and both the ant and the grasshopper lived. A few children wrote, 'No, Mr. Grasshopper. You should have worked in the summer. Now, I have just enough food for myself.' So the ant lived and the grasshopper died.

"But your son ended the story in a way different from any other child, ever. He wrote, 'So the ant gave all of his food to the grasshopper; the grasshopper lived through the winter. But the ant died.'

"And the picture? At the bottom of the page, Mark had drawn three crosses."