

THE
HOPE
YOU
NEED

2017

the year of

H·O·P·E

SUNDAYS

FEB 12 - APR 16

9 & 11 am



GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

by Overcoming Temptation

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Church | April 9, 2017

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

GROWING CLOSER TO GOD BY OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Temptation is **Satan's** direct attempt to draw us away from Jesus.

- Temptations are a **normal** part of daily warfare
- Expect to be **tempted**
- Expect to be tempted in some of the most **unexpected** places

3 Primary Sources of Temptation:

1. The **Devil**
2. The **World**
3. Our own **flesh** or sinful nature

1. The DEVIL

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1 Peter 5:8 KJV

So what hood is Peter warning us to walk with sobriety in? The bible refers to it as The **World**. The world isn't so much

a geographical **location** as much as it is a culture, a spirit, an ideal, a philosophy, a mindset, an influence.

2. The WORLD

15 Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God; 16 for all these worldly things, these evil desires—the craze for sex, the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you, and the pride that comes from wealth and importance—these are not from God. They are from this evil world itself. 17 And this world is fading away, and these evil, forbidden things will go with it, but whoever keeps doing the will of God will live forever.

1 John 2:15-17

The world tempts us in 3 primary ways:

1. The craze for **sex**.
2. The ambition to **buy** everything that appeals to you.
3. The **pride** that comes from wealth and importance.

The craze for sex is something you are caught up in, looking and living for.

The temptation to buy everything that appeals to you is the idea that if I can buy it, I will be **happier** in life.

The third avenue the world uses to entrap us is **Pride**. Pride that causes us to think that we are better. Pride that we get from status symbols; clothes we wear, the cars we drive, the neighbourhoods we live in, the jobs we have, or the degrees we hold.

All of which **reduces** our ability to serve God and love other people.

3. Our SINFUL NATURE

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1:13-15

The difference between a test and a **temptation**.

The purpose of a test is to determine **growth**, suitability, or safety. The purpose of a temptation is to get you to **fall or fail**. Sin is only given birth in our lives when we give into the temptation.

How is sin birthed? When you not only **stay** and look but you go back for **more**. Full grown sin is when you have done whatever it is your doing to the point that it is an ongoing **habitual practice** in your life.

Sin always reduces and destroys **life**.

We are not Christians because we are **never** tempted. We are Christians because we have admitted we need **Christ** in our lives.



You may want to use some or all of this supplemental information before jumping into the discussion questions.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (LEADERS ONLY)

The gospel of Jesus isn't just Good News, it's Great News especially for sinners. We all fall to temptation at times. Sometimes we even get badly hooked. It happens. In-fact God's word says if we say it doesn't happen to us we are lying.

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **1 John 1:8***

Freedom is Found in the Admitting

Admitting the truth shines a light on the darkness and secrets, leaving the devil nowhere to hide.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:8***

Healing is Found through Confessing

While we do not have to confess to any human being, doing so can make all the difference in the world. James 5 tells us that it can actually go so far as to bring break through and healing from the sin or addictions that are bringing death and destruction in our lives.

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be **healed**. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16***

Grace is only Grace when we know the worst in each other and yet love each other and support each other to fight for the victory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk About Past Temptation

Satan has used the world to get his hooks into every one of us. Describe a time when you were hooked, what was it and how did it happen?

2. Talk About Temptation Today

Begin by trying to get in touch with the ways you were tempted recently. Tempted to hide? Tempted to not tell the truth or the whole truth? Tempted to judge? Tempted to look or lust? Tempted to drink, drug, or take...?

- Describe one place where you won recently and one where you either nibbled or gave in.

3. Of the three primary areas of temptation coming out of the world is there one that you feel more vulnerable to?

4. Agree or Disagree: Sin is birthed when you not only stay and look, but you go back for more?

5. **There are not only places** of temptation but there are also times. When do you feel most susceptible? When you are lonely, tired, hungry? What can you do to safeguard yourself?

6. **In his excellent book, “Every Young Man’s/Woman’s Battle”** author Stephen Arterburn says you need to have a strategy or battle plan for the temptations you will face every day, share what yours is.

APPLICATION

STOP & PRAY | Close Out Conversation

1. Talk about the temptations you feel most tempted by or most vulnerable to right now.
2. Be led by the Holy Spirit to pray into what you have heard your partner share tonight ... be compassionate and understanding. Pray without judgement.



Close by praying for the group.

NOTES