

Spiritual Warfare --- Overcoming Temptations

1. Spiritual warfare.
 - A. We have an enemy **I Pet. 5:8**
 - B. We are in a spiritual warfare. **Eph. 6:11-13**
 - C. Our own souls are at stake, but victory is assured to all who will keep God's Word. **Jn. 15:4-5, 7-8, 10-11**

2. To be spiritually equipped for this warfare.
 - A. We must have a personal relationship with Christ.
 - B. We must have the Word of God in our hearts. **Psa. 119:11**
 - C. We must do what the Word of God teaches and not be just hearers only. **Jas. 1:21-25**

3. Satan is our enemy and a deceiver. **II Cor. 11:13; Rev. 12:9**
 - A. However...satan can not own us, possess us, or control us...unless we submit ourselves to him through witchcraft, voodooism, sorcery, or some form of devil worship.
 - B. The only way satan can get to us is through temptation.

4. Understanding temptation.
 - A. Eve's temptation in the garden. **Gen. 3:1-6**
 - 1) Why did God permit this temptation to happen?
Ans: To test and prove Adam & Eve.
 - 2) And that's why God allows us to be tempted...to reveal what's in the heart. **Matt. 15:18-20, Psa. 7:9**
Note: God knows what is in the heart. **I Kings 8:39, I Chron. 28:9**...But He judges us by the actions of the heart.
Heb. 11:7-9, 24-26, 28-30
 - B. How to handle temptations.
 - 1) Don't respond.
 - a) A tree falls in the forest. What a great crashing sound it makes. Does it?
 - b) If we do not respond to temptation then the tempter, satan, has been defeated.
 - 2) Our power to resist temptation comes through a consistent prayer life, faithful church attendance and individual devotions.