

PRAYING LIKE JESUS (Part 7)

1 John 1:5-2:2

I. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- A. What Do You Fear the Most?
 1. Is it sickness, suffering, unpopularity, criticism, death?
 2. Did temptation show up on your list?
- B. Trivializing Temptation.
 1. We take this part of the Lord's Prayer less seriously than any other petition.
 2. We are not afraid of temptation. As a matter of fact, we keep it as a constant companion.

II. CONCENTRATE ON YOUR CHOICES

- A. Every Day We Are Tempted.
 1. Every day we have a choice to make. We can choose between good and evil, between bring true or false, between being brave or cowardly, between being generous or selfish.
 2. Look beyond the choices to the destination of the road you travel.
 3. "We make our decisions and then our decisions turn around and make us." (Frank W. Boreham)
- B. Three Areas of Temptation.
 1. The Physical: Disease may leave us bitter or angry. Attractive members of the opposite sex may tempt us to forget our vows.
 2. The Spiritual: Is there a God? Does God love me?
 3. The Mental: This is where it usually begins. The battle in our minds begins the moment we wake up.
- C. Testing or Temptation?
 1. God may test us, but God will never tempt us! (James 1:13-15)
 2. The difference between a test and a temptation.

III. IS IT TOO LATE?

- A. Temptation Begins as Thoughts.
 1. In the secret places of our minds we fantasize and act out our thoughts. We read or watch the wrong things, we place ourselves in tempting situations, we keep the wrong company.
 2. "Our best friends and our worst enemies are our thoughts. A thought can do us more good than a doctor or a banker or a faithful friend. It can also do us more harm than a brick." (Frank Crane)
- B. An Escape Hatch.
 1. Confess: Agree with God that you have done wrong. (1 John 1:9)
 2. Repent: Turn away from the sin. (Acts 3:19)
 3. Believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. (John 3:16)
 4. Rejoice in your salvation. (John 1:12 & Psalm 32)

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Leona Evans, Dr. Gordon Freeman, James Lee, Fay McDowell, Sylvia Palmer ...
Friends – Melinda Banks, Bobby Borden, Pat Bryan, Alma Jo Churchill, Deborah Criswell, Doyle Davis, Jere Gifford, Joanna Grathwell, Jack Houston, Branden Hurst, Rusty Jackson, Ron McMillan, Macy Morgan, Betty Murray, Linda Petrie, Violet Stout, Mike Thompson, Steven Wachtler, Owen Walker, Janet Willis ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God, we are grateful for the precious gift of life. We are not sure what to expect as we slowly unwrap this gift, but we expect to be tempted as we strive to be faithful to your call and claim on our lives. When we lose someone we love, we will be tempted to become bitter and angry. When we face an extremely difficult situation, we will be tempted to escape through alcohol or drugs. When life is unfair, we will be tempted to engulf ourselves in self-pity. When people are unfair, we will be tempted to hate and seek revenge. When things go well, we will be tempted to give in to vanity and pride. There are so many temptations as we unwrap this gift and discover what is hidden there.

Lead us not into temptation, Lord. Help us to see past the present to the future destination of the road that we choose to travel. Will that road lead to joy and peace or sorrow and pain? So much of life hinges on the direction we choose to take in each decision we make. We pray that failure will never be given a chance to succeed, and temptation will hold no power over us. Lead us on our journey so that we will become stronger and wiser as we make our way to the person you want us to be. Help us to become like Jesus, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

1 JOHN 1:5 – 2:2

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

September 16	<i>What's Worth Wanting?</i>	Luke 12:13-31
September 23	<i>True North Principles</i>	Luke 12:32-40
September 30	<i>Don't Quench the Fire!</i>	Luke 12:49-56

On the Radio (1450 AM):

September 16	<i>Tell Me Where It Hurts</i>	James 5:13-20
September 23	<i>Dreamer in the Pit</i>	Genesis 37
September 30	<i>Just Say No</i>	Genesis 39