

# Principles of Prayer and Promises

Advanced Seminar

**“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.**

## PPP: Lesson 09:

Promises for Overcoming Sin

1. How did Jesus defeat Satan when the devil tried to trick Him into sin?

**“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

**“Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**

**“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” Matthew 4:1-11.**

2. This was not the only time Jesus was tempted, But in these three temptations are found all the various sins that people fall into. They are the same ones that Adam and Eve got tricked with. We can be glad that Jesus succeeded where our first parents fell! Let’s examine that story in Genesis 3:1-6.

**“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”**

Satan disguised himself so she did not know who he was. He nearly always does this in all his temptations and snares to fool us.

**“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”**

We see that Eve did know about what God had said, but she also did something dangerous that many people fall into—she added her own idea to the actual words of God. He did not say they

could not touch it, He said they were not to eat of it. This gave Satan an advantage.

**“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”**

Now came the lies; she was told God was lying to them, and it was good for her to disobey God. This matched up with Jesus’ first temptation; to satisfy appetite in a way God had forbidden; the second temptation, that she could disobey and not suffer the penalty; and the Third was that Jesus would have great power if He disobeyed God, is seen here too in the serpent’s lying promise to Eve.

**“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”**

Here is a perfect summary of the categories of sin: 1. “good for food” the power of appetite and lust is where most fall. 2. “Pleasant to the eyes” [enjoyable to look at] covers a lot of things including the snares of entertainment. 3. “Desired to make one wise” This covers all the false education and theories and also the desire to have influence and power over others.

3. Is this same list found elsewhere in the Bible with slightly different words?

**“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:15-17.**

There you have it: 1. **“the lust of the flesh, 2. and the lust of the eyes, and 3. the pride of life.”** When you look closely you can see they are the same 3 classes of sin.

3. Jesus won the victory over all these sins, therefore He can enable us to get the victory over them also.

**“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour [help or relieve] them that are tempted.” Hebrews 2:18.**

We see that one big secret to overcoming is to be familiar with the Word of God, the Bible. We can’t use ‘it is written’ unless we know what is written.

**“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Luke 11:9, 10.**

4. Understanding the power of choice can change our lives.

**“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15.**

“The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man--the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. Desires for goodness and purity are right, so far as they go; but if we stop here, they

avail nothing. Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him.

“God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in the life. By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power. We receive strength from above to hold us steadfast. A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God.” Ministry of Healing 176.

“Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ, your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you.” Temperance 113.

5. When we are tempted, we must go away from the situation and not linger, looking at it, or discussing it. Eve made the mistake of conversing with the serpent; Jesus refused to discuss anything with Satan.

**"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Proverbs 4:25-27.**

**"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then I shall be innocent." Psalm 19:13.** A presumptuous sin is when we go or stay in a situation we know is wrong, or when we discuss or argue about doing what we know is right. Taking a dare is often a presumptuous sin.

6. We need to make clear choices to serve the Lord and do right; if we start to say things like “I don’t see what is wrong with this?” or “I don’t think God is going to make a big deal over something like this.” Always stay fully on the Lord’s side, doing what He has commanded and Satan loses the ability to trick us.

**“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” James 4:7-10.**

**“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:8.**

A double-minded person is one who wants to serve the Lord but at the same time he has sins and questionable things that he doesn't really want to give up. So he doesn't make a solid choice to be on the Lord's side. Unless they change, sooner or later they end up worldly.

**"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6:24.**

**"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15.**

**"Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him." Exodus 32:26.**

7. When a person first becomes a Christian, it can be a temptation to still go with his old friends. Unless they too want to learn and change, the new Christian should make new friends, this way he can avoid temptation and many snares.

**"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7**

**"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:" Proverbs 1:10, 15.**

**"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3.**

**"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away." Proverbs 4:14, 15.**

**"I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation." Jeremiah 15:17.**

**"I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked." Psalm 26:4, 5.**

8. If we find ourselves in a bad situation, we can call on the Lord for help.

**"But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Proverbs 1:33.**

**"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Psalm 50:15.**

**"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him." Psalm 91:15.**

**"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5, 6.**