

Word Of Life Ministries

Evangelist Carolyn Luke—P.O. Box 148694

Issue 46

Chicago, Illinois 60614

July 15—Aug 15, 2006

TEMPTATION

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Temptation - (Peirasmos-Greek) A putting to proof, by experience of good or evil, discipline or provocation, scrutinize, entice, adversity;

Jesus was instructing His disciples both then and now how to overcome temptation. Temptation is something we will all experience one day. Whether we overcome depends on who is ruling our house. If our soul is ruling, then we will submit to temptation, but if we're governed by the Spirit of God, then we will have victory in those things that tried to tempt us.

Although the disciples had walked and talked with Jesus as well as being taught by Him, they were instructed to pray because He knew what was in our fleshly nature. He knew in order for us to have fellowship with God, to be sensitive to His voice and His Spirit, we would have to be people that pray. God does not commune with us through our flesh, but through our spirit. We're spirit beings communicating with our Heavenly Father which is a Spirit.

Prayer is one of our weapons against the attack of the enemy. Prayer is what keeps our soulish realm submitted to the will of

God. Prayer is what keeps us having a direct line to the Father; and because Satan is aware of how powerful prayer is, he consistently tries to keep us from connecting to the Father. He will keep us busy, having us thinking we're too busy or too tired to pray. He will always make sure that he keeps something before us to try to hinder the prayer of the Saints. Prayer changes us as well as changes our surroundings. Prayer will begin to open our understanding to wisdom and knowledge both for the natural and the spiritual.

Jesus was both man and divine, He lived a life of prayer because He knew what it would take to overcome Satan while He was here on earth. He knew what it took to keep His faith in line with the word of God while He was visiting Earth to bring us to salvation. He also knew how to be an example of what we must do in order to overcome Satan and the different road blocks we will go through during this spiritual journey to eternal life accessing the presence of the Father face to face.

Trials and tribulations are temptations, they will scrutinize your faith in the word of God as well as God's faithfulness to you as an individual.

Temptations come while we're driving when people jump in front of us. Will we be calm and praise the Lord, or will we begin to holler and make different types of gestures? Temptation comes to those that are married just as it does to those that are single. Just because

one is married does not mean they are ministered to by their spouse, spiritually, mentally, emotionally financially as well as sexually which will cause some to look elsewhere for their needs if they're not submitted and dedicated to the Lord.

Temptation comes when we may not have enough funds coming in to pay our bills, mortgage, car note and so forth, will we bow to Satan in order to get our bills paid? Temptations will prove whose servant we are. You can be tempted to leave the church or stop functioning in the church because of what people are doing or what they aren't doing. Maybe someone has approached you disrespecting your leadership, will you stop obeying God because of people? Satan uses people just as God uses people.

One of Saul's reasons for disobeying God was because he feared the people.

1st Samuel 15:24

And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

If Saul would've obeyed God as well as his leader, Samuel, Saul never would have been rejected by God. People can speak without opening their mouths just by their gestures. We must have holy boldness. We can't be fearful of what people will do or say.

TEMPTATION

Most believers think of temptation as committing fornication and adultery. Temptations bring fear, rebellion, ungodly pride, doubt, unbelief and worry just to name a few. This is why Jesus told the disciples to pray unless they would enter into temptation.

Satan is out to steal, kill and destroy every believer, and he will, if we don't begin to pray, fast, read and study the word of God so that when he comes to tempt and attack us, we will have our armor on. Too many times Saints are dragging their armor, leaving different parts of the armor off. Let truth be in us inwardly and in our hidden parts, God will make us to know wisdom. Have on the breastplate of righteousness which represents a holy character, moral conduct. Keep the shield of faith on, this helps us to conquer whatever the devil may throw at us. Have the helmet of salvation, knowing that you are assured of your salvation, it isn't wondering whether or not you're saved. Keep dust from collecting on your sword (Bible). Many of us don't know our rights, because we don't take the time to read the Bible, search out what belongs to us. Everything we need the Bible will show us how to obtain it.

You may only have time to pray for just five or ten minutes, if that is the case, then pray those five or ten minutes faithfully and God will give you an increase, we must take steps of discipline in order to be successful Christians. The spirit is always willing to pray and do the right thing, it's the flesh we're having trouble with.

Let temptations be a stepping stone of faith. The three Hebrew boys when they were thrown in the fiery furnace knew God was able to deliver them from the furnace, but if He didn't, they still wouldn't have served the god of Nebuchadnezzar. Temptation can be negative

or positive. Saul's temptation was negative because he feared, whereas when temptation came to the Hebrew boys they faced temptation in faith and came out with victory.

Elisha's servant was tempted by fear when the Syrians had them encircled, but the man of God, Elisha, prayed and asked God to open up his servant's spiritual eyes that he would see that it was more with them than the army he saw with his natural eyes. Prayer helps us to see into the spirit of a situation rather than looking at the situation in the natural.

As long as we're living, we will be faced with temptation, but how we react to the temptation will determine our outcome. Daniel was a man that prayed three times day, and the leaders of the kingdom knew Daniel was a praying man. Although Daniel and the three Hebrew boys were in captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel still prayed while he was in captivity. The leaders didn't like it and they made a plot against Daniel. They influenced the King to make a decree that if any man asked a petition of any god or man in thirty days they would be cast into the lions den, they knew that was the only way they could get Daniel.

As usual after hearing the decree, Daniel went into his house, with the window open and prayed to his God. Daniel could have feared and stop praying until the thirtieth day was over, but he didn't place his trust in the king, but he trusted God. The king wanted to deliver Daniel, but because of the laws of a decree by the Meds and Persians, it couldn't be changed, the king couldn't deliver Daniel. Daniel's earthly king couldn't deliver him, but God sent His angel and shut the mouth of the lions. Daniel had **RIGHT NOW FAITH.**

Don't let fear stop you from doing anything that God has instructed you to do.

With God on our side we can face any temptation that comes our way and know that we have the victory when we're rooted and grounded in the way of the Lord. Just because were tempted does not mean we have to yield to the temptation.

Paul and Silas could have went into unbelief, wondering why did this happen to them because they were locked in jail for teaching the word of God, but instead they prayed and sang praises to God, and because of faith in God, they were delivered and a soul was converted to the Lord. Many times we go through different trials and tribulation in order to be an example or a covering for those that don't know God. There is a reason for every temptation.

The very person you may be praying for can cause you much pain and sorrow, but don't let hurt and sorrow (temptation) cause you to stop believing and praying for that individual. Don't let self-righteousness keep you from learning more about God because the sermon isn't coming from a twenty or thirty year veteran of the faith. Rebuke unforgiveness, don't let it enter into your mind, heart or spirit. It's just another form of temptation that will cause a disconnection in the spirit where we cannot connect with God because we're holding unforgiveness towards someone. Pray until you know that unforgiveness isn't in you! Unforgiveness can cause different sicknesses and diseases. Unforgiveness works against us naturally and spiritually.

TEMPTATION

Satan is throwing everything he can at the Saints because he wants us to stumble, fail and backslide. He knows without faith we cannot please God, so he will tempt us with doubt, and unbelief. He will cause you to be hurt, disappointed, persecuted, rejected and neglected. All these are forms of temptations and if we're not praying as we should these temptations will get the best of us.

Jesus told the disciples that men should always pray and not faint (lose heart). Prayer doesn't mean we have to spend hours praying. We can say a ten minute prayer and it will do as much as an hour prayer when it's meant from the heart. Throughout the day, take a break and do a short prayer. You don't have to leave your workstation, you can pray in your spirit and God will hear it. A worship doesn't always have to be spoken out loud, but it can come from within the heart and God will receive it.

Don't wait for trouble to arise in order to pray, seek the face of the Father while you're on the mountain top, so when it's time for you to have a valley experience you will be able to pray without ceasing. Be like Daniel, no matter what may come your way, whatever may be said to you, whatever threat may come, you will pray. Know that God answers prayers, they may be delayed, but not denied.

Our spirit is always willing to pray, but it's the flesh that gets in our way of seeking the Father. He's looking for us to seek Him. We should have prayer daily, start your day off with prayer, end your day with prayer, take a three or five minute break throughout the day to pray.

As we pray, we will see spiritual changes in us as well as the situations and circumstances we're facing. Look to Jesus who is the author and the finisher of our faith.

Search yourself and see why you haven't been praying the way you know you should pray, then when you pray, believe what your praying for. If you're going to worry then don't pray, if you pray then don't worry!

Jesus told the disciples pray that they enter not into temptation. We too must keep a prayer in our hearts and in our mouths that we too will not enter into temptation. Prayer and worship is a weapon against any demonic force that will come against us. It's also a way to dwell in the secret hiding place of the Most High God!

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Visit Word of Life on the web at:

www.wordoflifeministries.org

Where there is much more to enjoy!

For prayer, free subscription, speaking engagement submit your request to: cluke@wordoflifeministries.org

Word of Life Ministries

C/o Evangelist Carolyn Luke

P.O. Box 148694

Chicago, Illinois 60614

© 2006

God bless you, walk in victory!

Next Issue: Assured Insurance

