

MEETING TEMPTATIONS RIGHT



S58A 0717 22P

There are many blessings that come from temptations when they are met right. Whether a small temptation or a serious trial, we are to meet each one according to the Word—which will increase our faith and trust in the Lord. Any temptation not met according to the Word of God will hinder our knowledge of God.

When we come to a full knowledge of God and to full grown men and women in Christ, we are to come to the place where nothing or nobody will sever us from God's Word in meeting things right. Even the little things; things which some might call insignificant.

There are very few that really realize that the fine points of obedience really count, and if they are not followed through with, the self-life does not die right. If we do not follow the fine points of obedience, it will permit the self-life to get a foothold, and Jesus Christ will never reign or develop fully within us, nor will we come to a full knowledge of God or ever enjoy the fulness of blessing which Jesus Christ has left us.

The self-life must die before we can enter into all the blessings waiting for us. That is the goal for every Christian. We do not get to know God in a day, but we can all be on the road to know Him. We just need to become fully surrendered to Him and His full Truth and to be obedient to His Word.

As we learn that these fine points of obedience are most valuable, we need to remember that this cannot be done in our own strength. We need to be willing to meet the test and go through it in God's strength.

God's will is explained in God's Word, so we must decide that not one thing, not one person, and not any temptation will separate us from the Word. Romans 8:35, "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*"

Our part is to be willing; then God furnishes the power, then each trial will turn out to be a very pleasant thing to go through. If we don't do our part, it will not be easy to go through it. One of the fine points of this obedience is found in the example of the three Hebrew children. They were told to trust in something which man had devised for everyone to trust in instead of the living God.

The whole object of this plan was a temptation from Satan; he was behind the whole plan, and it is an example of what we may all be faced with one day that of rejecting fallen man's laws and regulations where they conflict with God's Word and what He has written for us to follow.

Such temptations are brought about to bring us to the place where we will place the written Word of God in its proper place; and that we will be in the proper relation toward it and have the right attitude in it.

Everything that happens to us, every temptation, every loss, every gain, every change, or anything which comes against us has but one object alone; and that is to help us along these fine points of obedience, that we will be brought to the place of complete elimination of the self-life. That is the whole object of temptation to get the self-life out of the way.

Many people think that outward piety really counts, but, any true Christian, having the true gospel, will not go around in a pious manner but will allow the Holy Spirit to do the work of shining through them. The piety of the three Hebrew children showed that they had really died to self. When one is steering a vessel through the channel, he passes lights, and every time he comes to a light, he knows he is in the channel of safety. We have a

wonderful light let down from Heaven to safely guide us on our way; it is this true gospel.

In the third chapter of Daniel, we have one of the brightest lights ever let down; it shows us just where self dies. It reveals one of the fine points of obedience, bringing death to self, and bringing us to the place where we will have nothing to do with any plans or policies where fallen man places their trust as our trust is in the living God alone. These men were told if they did not obey the command of the king they would be thrown into a fiery furnace and burned to death. This is a wonderful example of truth that would pay for us to ponder on for a moment to really think about what these men were really going through.

Maybe we don't really stop to think about what real hardships really are as Christians today don't really have the hardships that were recorded back in Bible times. Today we may be faced with insurance laws, seatbelt and safety requirements, medical mandates, and vaccinations, which many may consider to be hardships. God has always made a way for us to get around these laws, and they have given us that wonderful privilege to place our trust in God and know that He will bring us through just as He did for the three Hebrew children.

People in Bible times had to go through many hardships. Hebrews 11:37-38, "*They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*"

They lived up to the Word and proved their steadfastness and faith. They were trained and prepared for the great blessings which God has for them; for those who came to prove their steadfastness and faith.

In the case of the three Hebrew children, they were in a serious position. It was a life-or-death decision to be made, and yet they would not budge. They remained firm in their decision.

We too need to watch and pray, meeting our every temptation according to His Word. Totally rejecting every human plan of trust and remain firm in our decision by God's help alone.

That is the whole object of every temptation; the reason why laws of various kinds are passed, including the vaccination law, insurance laws, seat belt laws, and more. Satan loves to get up all these schemes and plans, trying to drive us to depend on the works of man, instead of the living God.

Man's plans and ideas have never changed since this law was passed by the king of Babylon unless it has gotten worse. The very object of Satan is to cause man to swerve from God's Word and depend on man.

The teaching and plan of the Scriptures is to eliminate the flesh; that the flesh could never say it accomplished anything. The works of man are eliminated and the power of God alone is to work for us, spiritually, physically, and in everything which concerns us, it is all to be done by the power of God. The self-life is to be eliminated and gotten rid of completely, and we are to let God do all the work that is needed to be done.

We can find throughout Scripture, the fine point of obedience that God has been teaching us. If we were facing a serious question or maybe even death itself, and we could save ourselves by just a bend of the back or a stroke of the pen, we would not do it.

That is the place where self really dies and where we are in a position to receive an abundance of blessing. We have reached rock bottom and where we cease to pay attention to our outward appearance and conditions, and our full attention is on our spiritual attitude and outlook.

There will be the gate which Satan can never enter, the gateway to fullness of blessing. Everyone who reaches Heaven will have to pass through that gate. Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because*

strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

We must face these things now while we have the chance to make our calling and election sure. There is only one class of people who can meet temptations as God has directed and receive the full benefit; that is a genuine Christian.

God wants us to learn the fine points of obedience and to have self eliminated and Christ enthroned. This will eliminate all trouble, sorrow, and distress in our lives and bring fullness of blessing. 1 Peter 5:8, 9, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith,*"

The three Hebrew children give us this example of steadfastness in the faith---the easiest human deliverance we could get from the most terrible calamity, we would not accept, we would rather lose our lives and die the most horrible death than fail to meet something in God's way. (Vs 9-10) "*knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*"

This prepares us for Heaven, as it is one of the fine points which leads right to the road to Heaven. When we are out of one temptation and into another, we are learning to obey God's Word and to meet things right. We are learning to not be offended at what people say and do and will allow them to walk all over us, (as the saying goes) when there used to be times when we would rather not be around them.

We must learn to bear these things as they are the fine points of obedience. Never give up when we are under pressure, and to remember that God is to do the work for us. We are to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. Romans 8:31 makes it very plain, "*If God be for us, who can be against us.*"

The late Pastor said, "As for divine healing, if a massage would relieve any part of my body, or a cup of water bring me some relief from an oppression, I would rather die than take it." It is all written in 1 Peter 2:24, "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*"

It is the same in all other matters; but the only ones who can meet these issues are those who have been filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Peter had to be warned about the self-life on several occasions.

After Jesus told His disciples that He was the Messiah, and that He would be crucified and on the third day, He would rise again. Jesus said to Peter, Luke 22:31-32, "*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*"

That very night Peter told people at three different times that he did not know his Lord and Master. A real denial of His Lord; but after he had received the Holy Spirit, he stood up before a large company of people; men who would have thought nothing of killing him; and told them that they had murdered the Just One, they had killed the Prince of Life. (Acts 2:23)

Peter was not afraid of anything or anybody, he had no trouble to meet things right. We also will have no trouble to meet things either when we keep this heart with all diligence---as Solomon had said---and keep our stand of faith that we are pardoned and cleansed the very moment we ask, that we are filled with the Holy Spirit: we will then be able to meet our trials and temptations that God permits to come our way as His Word directs.



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list--contact:

PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org S58A 0717 22