Preparing for Temptation

Greg Kline · Psalm 101:1–4

INTRODUCTION

- Just with packing up and moving from one house and unpacking into the next, we understand as human beings that tough situations require planning.
- Plan for temptation. It will come. It's not a matter of if, it is a matter of when and when alone.
- Brothers and sisters, we are going to battle, so therefore we must have a battle plan.

1 Keep First Things First

Psalm 101:1; Psalm 100:3–5; Psalm 119:164–165

- What does David do first? In this Psalm, just like he does in almost any other, He starts by praising him.
- First of all, God deserves it.
- A second part of why this praise is so necessary for us in our preparing for temptation is it grows our faith in Him while keeping us humble.
- And finally, it allows us to remember God.
- I guarantee that will lower your chances of falling. Because it raises your chances of being connected with the God who can pull you through.
- Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules. Great peace have those who love your law. Nothing can make them stumble.

2 Ponder the Way That Is Blameless

Psalm 101:2; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13

- But how often do we think about the perfect way? The blameless way, the blessings of obedience, the wonderful eternal reward God gives us if we submit our will to his.
- We must be like David and ponder the blameless way. We need to look at our lives the way he did, the biblical way.
- For God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape.
- But what this means for us in our planning is to remember that we can do it.
- We need to realize that our mindset dictates our actions.
- We will never overcome temptation if we approach it with a defeatist attitude.

3 I Will Walk With Integrity of Heart

Joshua 24:15; Genesis 39:6–12; Matthew 12:33–37

- The ability to withstand the storm of temptation lies squarely on our decision to stand and our belief that we can, in fact, do it.
- We need to decide in advance what our stance on the temptation is if we wish to remain standing.

- It means we have to anticipate what our individual temptation is.
- Joseph knew what he was going to do before it happened, and it didn't matter what Satan threw at him.
- If we wait until the moment to decide what our exact stand will be, that is exactly what the great deceiver wants.
- Because the time for thought is before the temptation happens.

4 Nothing Worthless Before My Eyes

Psalm 101:3–4; 2 Samuel 11:1–5; Romans 12:9

- I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away. It shall not cling to me.
- It's hard enough to avoid the temptation Satan throws in our path. We don't need to be in paths where it's littered with it.
- Temptation is not an extreme sport.
- We need to be proactive in eliminating the temptations from our lives.
- Let love be without hypocrisy, abhor what is evil, and cling to what is good.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Stand firm. Stand right and make a plan to stand up. Because that's the only way you'll still be standing there when the storm of temptation comes.**

MY NOTES