

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
PART 4a—CHANGING TO PLEASE GOD
2 PETER 1:3-4

Introduction

Thus far in the last three weeks, we've looked at this subject of **OVERCOMING TEMPTATION** and seen:

That the problem of temptation affects us ALL!

That the why of temptation goes to the bigger spiritual battle of the ages—That between Satan and God!

Then, we looked last week at WHO IS TO BLAME when we fall into temptation! (We saw that WE ARE TO BLAME!)

Tonight, we are going to look at the very important matter of our **CHANGING TO PLEASE GOD!**

Too many believers are under the erroneous impression that they can't change! The reality is more often than not that some do not want to change, while others view it as too hard and don't want to put forth the effort required!

Nevertheless, we want to see tonight that a **CHILD OF GOD CAN CHANGE** with the help and resources that God has provided Him at the time of Salvation! **And God EXPECTS US TO CHANGE!**

He wants us to live in VICTORY OVER SIN AND THE FLESH!

Remember that SALVATION HAS THREE ASPECTS:

- 1. The Past Aspect is that we were SAVED FROM SIN'S PENALTY!**
- 2. The Present Aspect is that we can be SAVED FROM SIN'S POWER!**
- 3. The Future Aspect is that one day we will be SAVED FROM SIN'S PRESENCE!**

Ok, so with that being said, let's get into the Scripture:

I. CONSIDER THAT A TRUE BELIEVER IS A CHILD OF GOD WHO IS BORN AGAIN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD!

Let's break this down and see several things about this:

A. Consider The Fact That Those Who Are Saved Are Born Of God! (John 1:12-13)

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B. Consider The Fact That Those Who Are Saved Are Indwelt By The Spirit Of God! (John 14:16-17; Titus 3:4-6)

The Holy Spirit of God is our "*On-Board Helper*"!

This gives us an advantage over the saints in other ages who were not indwelt by the Spirit of God!

II. CONSIDER THAT A TRUE BELIEVER CAN CHANGE BECAUSE GOD MAKES IT POSSIBLE THROUGH SPIRITUAL RENEWAL!

Our text in 2 Peter 1:3-4 mentions what GOD'S DIVINE POWER has given us and the fact that we now have HIS DIVINE NATURE!

2 Corinthians 5:17—"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Romans 6:4—"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

We have participated in and are benefactors of Christ's death for our sins and His burial, but we are also participants and benefactors of HIS RESURRECTION!

Philippians 3:10—"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

III. GOD IS THE ONE WHO BOTH ENABLES US TO CHANGE AND WORKS IN US THAT CHANGE!

Philippians 2:12-13—"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

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- A. As We Abide In Christ, We Are Empowered By Him,
Which Manifests Itself In Much Fruit In Our Lives!**
(John 15:1-5)

- B. God Calls Us To Put Off Our Old Sinful Ways And To Put
On New And Godly Ways! *(Ephesians 4:17-32)***