

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
PART 4b—CHANGING TO PLEASE GOD
SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS!
2 PETER 1:3-4

Introduction

Thus far in the last four 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 at WHO IS TO BLAME when we fall into temptation! (We saw that WE ARE TO BLAME!)

LAST TIME, we began looking at the very important matter of our CHANGING TO PLEASE GOD!

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

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

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"!*

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 that GOD'S DIVINE POWER has given us ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS **and** the fact that we now have HIS DIVINE NATURE!

III. CONSIDER THAT 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. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

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)*

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IV. CONSIDER THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS WE ARE GIVEN ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS! (EPHESIANS 5:1-21)

The LORD has not left us without instructions! I want you to see that we are given specific instructions on what must be done in our lives to accomplish this change in our lives to please God!

A. We Are To Follow God As Dear Children! (Vs 1)

Let's break this down so we can understand it better:

The word "followers" is translated from a word that literally means "imitator"!

We've ALL seen children that imitated their parents!

We think its cute when they are **imitating the right things!**

But its not so cute when they are **imitating the wrong things!**

It is IN Children to **imitate what they see in their parents!**

It is part of growing into maturity! When they are young they want to be like us! Right?

Sticking close to the source of our Spiritual Birth (God) and imitating Him is an essential part of growing into spiritual maturity and being like Him!

I want you to get this point: **We cannot imitate someone whose ways we do not know!** Amen!?

And get this too: **The closer we are to God, the more likely we are to imitate Him!** Does that make sense to you?

1 Peter 1:15-16—"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

Amos 3:3—"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

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Romans 12:9—“Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

This goes back to what we said about “obiding” in the Lord!

*The word “**dear**” comes from a form of the word for love, “**agape**”, and means “**beloved**.”*

1. **We Are To Walk In Love! (Vs 2)**
walk = to live, deport oneself, follow
(i.e. Seeking the highest good for others.)
2. **We Are To Totally Avoid Some Things!: (Vs 3-4)**
 - a) **fornication - harlotry and adultery, lewdness, all sex outside of biblical marriage. Also idolatry! Idolatry = Spiritual Fornication!**
 - b) **uncleanness - physical and moral impurity.**
 - c) **covetousness - avarice (greed), fraudulence, extortion.**
 - d) **filthiness - shamefulness, obscenity**
 - e) **foolish talking - silly talk, buffoonery**
 - f) **jesting - a low kind of wit.**
(i.e. More specifically it is trying to make a joke at someone else’s expense!)
 - g) **i.e. Avoid improper actions & speech!**
Avoid conduct unbecoming of a Christian!

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3. **We Are To Rather To Give Thanks! (Vs 4e)**
we are to have an attitude of gratitude!

Jesus was regularly giving thanks to His Heavenly Father! Don’t you think that is something we also need to do?

4. **We Are To Watch What We Join In With!**
We are not to be partakers with the children of disobedience who practice these things. (Vs 7; 11)

*Vs 7 “**partaker**” = “co-participant” or “one who joins in”*

*Vs 11 “**fellowship**” = “to share company with; co-participate in.*

*Vs 11 “**reprove**” = “admonish; to confute, which means to disprove or to prove to be wrong.”*

Take the example of Jesus:

Though He sat at meat with publicans, harlots, and other sinners in order to reach them, nowhere will you find that He joined in or condoned their practices!

You will also find that He separated Himself from the hypocrisy of the Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees!

His teaching and preaching and very life were a reproof to those walking in darkness!

5. **We Are To Walk As Children Of Light! (Vs 8)**
 - a. **Before we were saved, we were in the darkness of sin and walked in the darkness of sin and wrong! (4:17-18)**

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Proverbs 4:19—“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”

- b. But now we are light in the LORD!**
2 Corinthians 4:6—“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
- c. Therefore, we are to walk as the children of light that we are!**

- So, **A. We Are To Follow God As Dear Children!**
- B. We Are To Manifest The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit Who Lives Within! (Vs 9; Cf. Galatians 5:16-26, esp. Vs 22-23) If The Holy Spirit Is Resident In Our Lives and Fills Our Lives, He Will Manifest Himself In Our Lives By His Fruit!**
- 1. The Fruit Of The Spirit Is In All Goodness!**
“goodness” = “virtue, practice of doing good, or active goodness, kindness, or charity.”
 - 2. The Fruit Of The Spirit Is In All Righteousness!**
“righteousness” = “equity of character; conformity of life to profession”
 - 3. The Fruit Of The Spirit Is In All Truth!**
“truth” = “to be true in doctrine and profession.”
 - 4. We Are To Prove What Is Acceptable Unto The Lord! (Vs 10; Romans 12:1-2)**
“proving” = “trying; testing; ascertaining; to show to be true.”

“acceptable” = “fully agreeable”

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- 5. The Light In Us Will Both Reprove The Works Of Darkness And Dispel It! (Vs 11-14)**
“reprove” = “admonish; to confute which means to disprove or to prove to be wrong.”

Light dispels darkness! **(Vs 14)**
Darkness is the absence of light!
Darkness cannot abide where there is light!

2 Corinthians 4:6—“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

- 6. We Are To Walk Circumspectly In Wisdom And Redeem The Time We Have! (Vs 15-17)**
“circumspectly” = “exactly or precisely; cautiously; with watchfulness every way; with attention to guard against surprise or danger”
- “fool” = “unwise”*
“wise” = “one who has a right and proper application of knowledge (i.e. the will of the Lord)”

- 7. We Are To Be Filled With The Spirit! (Vs 18-21)**
To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit with the fruit of the Spirit shining through!
Manifested by:
 - 1) Praise & Worship of the LORD! (Vs 19)
 - 2) Thanksgiving to the LORD! (Vs 20)
 - 3) An Attitude Of Submission As Required By The Fear Of The LORD! (Vs 21)

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Conclusion

We Are To Follow God As Dear Children!

We Are To Manifest The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit Who Lives Within!

The degree to which the Spirit is manifested in our lives depends on His fullness within us!