

CAN WE REALLY OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

Christians often ask, “Can we really overcome temptation?” This question reveals to a degree the struggles that we as Christians often have. Christians are besieged with constant temptations, and at times it seems overwhelming. Therefore, this is the reason that we pose the questions that we pose.

Questions such as: Is it really possible to overcome temptation with any meaningful sense? How can we be triumphant? With Satan, the world, and our own flesh against us, is there any hope for us to overcome sin’s pull?

An article that I recently read had this to say, “With the steady streams of pastors and church leaders who have fallen into gross, disqualifying, scandalous sin, many Christians are asking if the church itself and her leaders in particular are being subjected to some level of assault for which they are no match. Indeed, several of the fallen televangelist has blamed demonic forces beyond their control for their personal moral collapse. Popular Christian fiction portrays the church as engaged in a fearsome satanic battle, orchestrated by a formidable conspiracy of visible and invisible evil forces that want to mow us down. And we know from Scripture that we are engaged in spiritual warfare with demons we cannot see (Ephesians 6:12). If all the forces of hell are arrayed against us, are we any match for that? Or are we really just victims of overwhelming temptation that we do not have the resources to deal with?”

People would rather believe writings of fiction, because they offer drama. And drama stirs the emotions, it raises the level of excitement, and most people like this type of reading. This is the reason that books of this nature sell so well. But truth cannot be found in books of fiction.

The questions that have been asked can clearly be answered in Scripture. In fact, it answers all those questions in one verse. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

No temptation can be so overpowering that we are left helpless to resist. Satan is not so powerful, demons are not so effective, the evil conspiracy is not so cleverly devised, that we are left helpless to be victimized by temptation. The Scriptures will help us understand how we can triumph over specific temptations through the study of its pages, not some writing of fiction.

Jerry W. Arnold
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(June 2010)