

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

Volume VIII

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No. 43

Joseph: The Keys To Overcoming Temptation

Jacob Holman

Joseph is one of those heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11. He was not a perfect man, but he did trust in God during some very trying circumstances in his life. In Genesis 39, we find one such episode, where he was tempted, but overcame that temptation with God's help.

In this chapter, we find Joseph being taken into Egypt as a slave. Upon arriving in the country, he was taken to Potiphar's house. After watching Joseph for a while, Potiphar saw that God was with him and so he put him in charge of all that he owned, including his house, servants and land. But then came the temptation to commit fornication with Potiphar's wife. Think about 3 keys that Joseph used to overcome this difficult situation.

(1) He realized Satan's power and persistence. The text tells us "*Joseph was handsome in form and appearance*" (Genesis 39:6). He was about 17 or 18 years old at this time. He knew that God had blessed him with good looks. I'm sure he also knew that women would be attracted to him because of his appearance. The text also tells us that Potiphar's wife was persistent in her temptation. She said, "Lie with me" day after day. Joseph realized that Satan was working on his need, as a young man, for sexual pleasure. Sometimes, I'm afraid we underestimate Satan's power and persistence. We think

ourselves invincible against the smoothest talker in the world! Not Joseph. He knew Satan was very powerful and very persistent.

(2) He considered the costs of sin. Here he was, a young, single man, away from his family and friends. He had no hope of ever seeing them again. He could have easily thought, "I'll never find anyone to marry here. And besides, I have needs and no one will ever know." But instead notice what Joseph's response was: "How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9). I'm sure he understood that sin is pleasurable, but is also fleeting. Too often, we don't think through all the costs of giving into temptation before we face the choice. Not Joseph. He weighed his options and chose to serve God and forgo the momentary pleasure of sin.

(3) He relied on God's promises and providence. Instead of giving into such a powerful temptation, Joseph literally ran for his spiritual life! He removed himself from the situation. He must have known that God would reward him for showing such courage and character under fire. God has promised us that "He is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it" (1

Corinthians 10:13).

Let's take God at His word and believe that He has given us the power to overcome temptation. We can overcome Satan's snare by using these three keys today!

~via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.



“Things To Think On”

Richie Thetford

Every waking hour of our life our mind is thinking of something. How good it is when we can train our mind to think on good things. Paul said “whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). A Christian's thoughts should be centered on godly things, not evil. Some may ask “Can our thoughts be controlled?” In 2 Corinthians 10:5 we read: “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” From what Paul said it is obvious that we can control our thoughts if we work at it.

Why Think On The Good Things?

We should think on good things first of all because we are commanded to do so. Paul said “if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). Paul is speaking through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, therefore we must treat what he says as a command of God. We also need to think on good things because we are as we think. Solomon wrote: “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7). If we are thinking of good things then we won't be defiled (Matthew 15:19-20). God knows our thoughts and knowing that God knows our

thoughts should motivate us to only want to think on the good things (1 Corinthians 3:20). And if we think on the good things there will be less chance of us sinning. For when we sin then we must ask God to forgive us of that sin. In Acts 8:22 we can read where evil thoughts need to be repented of. “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.” If we would take Paul's advice (command) and think on the good things then we would not have to repent of evil thoughts.

What Should We Think On?

We should train our mind to think on the Lord's thoughts. Isaiah said “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:7-9). We need to remember that God's thoughts are not like ours. Where man would see no problem in doing something (Instrumental Music, Fun, Food, Frolic, etc.), God does see a problem with it and has set forth His way of worshiping Him in His written word, the Bible. We must ensure that we strive to think as the Lord would think and then so do. We should think on honorable things (Romans 12:17). We need to think about our savior Jesus Christ and why He came to this earth. He came and suffered, bled, and died so that you and I can have forgiveness of sins (Romans 6:3-4).

Our mind will always be thinking of different things as we go about our daily business. But let us train our mind to think on the good things that Paul stressed in Philippians 4:8. If we would allow God to direct our every step in life (Jeremiah 10:23), then it would be so much easier. Let us resolve now to give our heart and mind over to Jesus and let His example lead us each day as we strive to be the right influence

before others. Won't you be determined now to set your mind on thinking of good things and to follow the teachings of Jesus?

~via **Castleton Light**, Indianapolis, Indiana.



“We Walk By Faith”

James E. Cooper

“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:6-7).

The Bible often uses “walk” as a metaphor for one’s manner of conduct. Life is a journey; we are merely “sojourners and pilgrims” here. An old hymn says, “this world is not my home; I’m just a passing through...” In the body we are “absent from the Lord,” but like Paul, we “walk by faith...” and “make it our aim to always be well-pleasing” to God (2 Corinthians 5:2-9). Our choices are made with respect to things, which are unseen, rather than to those which are seen (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Although we cannot see God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and Heaven with our eyes, we have complete confidence that they are real, and we act accordingly. Whether we see or do not see does not alter their nature nor importance, nor does it make it improper to act with reference to them.

Faith enables us to see when the eye cannot. It makes easy the most self-sacrificial service required of us (cf. Abraham, Genesis 22). It enables us to endure sore trials without murmuring. When dangers arise, it lights our path and gives us courage. It enables us to overcome doubt and temptations for we believe that “Faith is the victory that overcomes the world!”

We do not “walk by sight.” One walks by

sight when he is motivated only by the approval of other people. He walks by sight when he makes mammon his god...when he lives for getting and hoarding, or spending and squandering...when he estimates worth by wealth, or property. A man walks by sight when he cannot control his appetite or passion; when he cannot put aside things “good for food and pleasant to the eyes” for the sake of tomorrow’s sickness, or a life of disgrace; when he finds himself again and again yielding to the same temptation from which he has suffered. Weakly lives and miserably dies the one who is a slave of what his better nature condemns and despises, but to which his fleshly appetite, long made a tyrant by yielding to it, ties and binds him.

Quotes about Faith: *“Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light...Faith wears everyday clothes and proves herself in life’s ordinary situations...Faith grows only in the dark. You’ve got to trust God when you can’t touch Him...A faith that hasn’t been tested can’t be trusted...Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to finally see what we have believed.”*

~via **Biblical E-Sights**, Vol. 1 No. 52.

News & Notes

THE SICK: **Wynell Ridgeway** had series of test done this past week ...**Kerry Cox’s grandfather, Coy Lowman**, is in the Princeton Hospital in Birmingham and not doing well at all... **Jerry Dickey’s mother, Pat Dickey**, continues in the ECM hospital room 662...**Sadie McIntyre** was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...**Claus and Sanda Martel** were both not feeling well and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...**Arvel Newton’s nephew, Chester Newton**, continues at home with his battle with cancer

...Remember **Millinea Word** as she continues her treatments/medication ...**Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out ...**Aldeen Noles** is in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..**Shelia Moore's mother-in-law, Laurene Whitehead**, is in the Athens Convelesant Center ...**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ... **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, and **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **West Rogersville church** in Rogersville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be **Warren Glass, Jr.** They will have services tonight at 7:30 and Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m....The **Bethel church** in Bethel, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with **Everett Conn** doing the preaching. They will meet this afternoon at 3:00 and Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7:00...The **Pleasant Valley church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with **Dick Blackford** preaching. The services Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m.... The **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with **Dave Schmidt** preaching. The services will begin at 7:00 p.m....The **Jordan Park church** in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Gerry Sandusky** will be the speaker in this meeting.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Communication group one will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

THE RECORD: *Averages for October 2001*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	86
	Morning Worship	100
	Evening Worship	72
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	74

Gospel POWER

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

- Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
- Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
- Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

- Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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