

The One Who Did Not Sin Knew Not To

I. Jesus Knew And Reminded Satan

Matt. 4:1-10 “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU’; and ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”

7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”

8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory;

9 and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”

So Jesus overcame by Self Denial.

Jesus did not take the easy way out to food, popularity, wealth or power.

And The Word of God – quoted the scriptures at each temptation.

He saw Satan’s deceptions in his quotations and came back with proper scriptural reply.

Eph. 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Jesus was very effective at wielding this weapon.

II. We Need To Learn And Remind Tempters

A. Learn By Jesus’ Example

1 Pet. 2:21,22 “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH”

B. Learn From Apostles’ Teaching

Tit 3:14 “And let our *people* also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”

Eph. 4:17-24 “This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

1.) Preventative: “So that you may not...”

1 Jn. 2:1 “ My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”

We are told not to sin.

Now we know that we do, and the scriptures know that we do, and God knows that we do, but that doesn't excuse or lighten it.

When we do sin we have Jesus as an Advocate for us with the Father, but we too often rely on they Advocate more than we try to avoid the sin.

The help of the Advocate is our fall back position in the fight against sin - not the hammock of life to relax in with efforts at resistance.

2.) Remedial: "Stop Sinning"

1 Cor. 15:34 "Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame."

3.) Repetitive: "Do Not, Do Not, Do Not"

Eph. 4:26 "BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger"

Eph. 5:11 "And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them"

Eph. 5:17 "So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Over 200 "Do Not" admonitions in the New Testament.

Matt. 6:7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition..."

Matt. 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth..."

Matt. 6:25 "...do not be anxious for your life..."

Matt. 21:21 "...and do not doubt..."

4.) Effective "...Escaped..."

2 Pet. 2:20 "For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first."

Now these sinned in going back to the world - but they had gotten out.

They just needed to stay out! – as we do also.

C. As Apostles Taught Us, We Must Teach Others

1 Jn. 3:7-9 "Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

We Are to Share the Message:

Acts 8:4 "Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

Heb. 3:13 "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

III. A Goal Only Reached By Striving

Knowing God is not accidental, not instinctual, and should not just be traditional. It should be by faith.

A. Recognize It As A Worthy Goal

Eph. 5:10 "trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

B. Build Yourself Up To It

The new start is at baptism.

Rom. 6:10-13 "For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts,

13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.”

At conversion the mind is changed - “consider yourself dead to sin,” vs. **11** – so don’t let sin reign.

That is the start of the process.

We have to grow in it.

2 Pet. 1:5,6 “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge;

6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness

C. Always Recognize There Is More To Do

Phil. 3:9-14 “and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained *it*, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus knew the evil of sin and so steeled His mind perfectly against it.

We, by lusts, practiced depravity, corrupted characters, and weakness don’t do it so well.

So the constant need for striving.