

Day 21 Colossians 3: 1-5

In the short book of Colossians thus far we have learned some amazing truth. Now we are being challenged to walk out this belief in our everyday lives. And we are told through these truths that we have the wisdom to do it.

We are all tempted, and we all live in the flesh, so we will continue to be subject to temptation. We all need perspective and help with this issue, so if you're dealing with temptation, you are not alone!

But what are some practical ways we can apply all these spiritual truths to our physical pull to sin?

One of important thing to remember when we deal with temptation is that God is for us. Here are a couple scriptures that support this thought.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a great high priest (Jesus) who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet He did not sin.

2 Chronicles 16: 9 says -

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are completely committed to Him.

These verses give us insight to God's understanding of our dilemma. But it also gives us some practical tools.

Instead of trying to wish temptation away, running from it, or giving into it, we are told we can run to Christ for help knowing that He gets the struggle. He is our priest; he will go before God to get us strength to endure. These verses show us that God is not waiting for us to fail, He is waiting for us to need Him.

But let's not kid ourselves. We usually don't just overcome temptation in one sitting. Learning to overwhelm ourselves with truth when we are being tempted takes practice. We shouldn't be surprised if that same temptation hits us again.

But there is progress in the process. We just keep applying truth until it soaks deep within us.

In Ephesians we are told that our ultimate struggle with sin is not our flesh, it is against powers in places we cannot see or go. Self-discipline and attempting to curb our behavior aren't enough to withstand the onslaught of spiritual enemy.

But think of this when we face temptation God takes it personally. We are His. We carry His Name, and if something comes against us, it is coming against His Name. His Name will always prevail. His truth has the power defend us. It not a nebulous belief. It is our defense. Ephesians calls it the armor of God. We call it salvation.

Practicing truth will always be how we stand against temptation. Our reliance on it will always defend us.