

Overcoming Temptation

Pr. Israel - Aug, 3rd 2025

Main Bible Verse

¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 NLT

Summary of the Message

Why do we face hard times and struggles?

Our trials and temptations are far more valuable than they appear. Through them, God is shaping us into the person He has called us to be.

1. Trials reveal the genuine faith within us

"⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT

Peter writes to early Christians facing persecution, aiming to encourage them in their faith. Trials are not meaningless they serve a purpose, even if we cannot fully see or understand it at the moment.

The main Greek word used, DOKIMION, means "tested." It's not about breaking someone down but rather revealing the authenticity of their faith. Trials are part of the process of being proven genuine.

"You may never know that God is all you need until God is all you have." Corrie Ten Boom

2. Temptations are opportunities for growth, not shame

"¹³ When you are tempted to do wrong, do not say, "God is tempting me." God cannot be tempted. He will never tempt anyone. ¹⁴ A man is tempted to do wrong when he lets himself be led by what his bad thoughts tell him to do."

James 1:13-14 NLT

Temptations arise from our own desires. Trials are external hardships, while temptations are internal struggles.

The main Greek word, PEIRASMOS, means "to test." The context determines whether it refers to a trial meant for growth or a temptation meant to entice us into sin.

Ultimately, it's our response that defines the outcome. A powerful example is Joseph in Genesis 39, who faced temptation but chose righteousness, turning a potential fall into spiritual growth.

3. God's promise through every trial

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James 1:12 NLT

Trials shouldn't make us bitter—they should make us better, stronger, and bolder, because we can do all things through God, who gives us power.

God uses these moments to prepare us, making

us stronger for the trials yet to come. Ahead of us awaits a crown, a summit, and we must keep our eyes fixed on heaven.

Even in the midst of pain, we must remain focused and steadfast. Blessed is the one who perseveres, for they will receive the promised reward.

The main Greek word, Stephanos, means “crown” a symbol of victory for those who endure faithfully.

Start Talking: Spark Conversation

- Can you recall a time when you went through a trial and later realized it shaped you into a stronger person?
- When you hear the word “temptation,” what’s the first thought or situation that comes to mind?
- What do you think is the hardest part about staying faithful during difficult seasons of life?

Start Thinking: Deepen the Thought

- The study highlights that temptations can be opportunities for growth. How could resisting temptation today prepare you for a bigger purpose tomorrow?

Start Sharing

- Share about a specific moment when you faced a trial or temptation and, by relying on God, came out stronger or learned something significant about your faith.

Start Doing: Commit to Act

- Identify one temptation or trial you’re currently facing and commit to facing it with perseverance.

Praying.

“Lord, we thank You for the trials and challenges that shape our faith. Give us the strength to resist temptation, to stand firm in our struggles, and to fix our eyes on the crown of life You’ve promised. Help us walk boldly, trusting that You are with us in every battle. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Announcements:

The Way Camp – September 19th to 21st
Conferência Casa de Glória – August 14th to 17th