

WHY IS TEMPTATION SO HARD TO RESIST?

GENESIS 3:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Why does it seem like resisting temptation is hard to do?
 - a) Paul considered it hard. (Rom. 7.19; 1 Cor. 9.24-27)
 - b) Yet Paul was more devoted than anyone. (1 Cor. 15.10)
2. Consider the challenge of resisting temptation.

I. DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE DO NOT LISTEN TO GOD

- A. The first sin was committed because Eve did not listen.
 1. God gave Eve specific instructions. (Gen. 3.1,2)
 2. Adam and Eve did not obey God. (Gen. 3.12,13,17)
 3. To sin is to break God's commandments. (1 John 3.4)
- B. We struggle with sin because we do not listen to God.
 1. **PSALM 119.11:** *"Your word I have hidden in my heart..."*
 2. How did Jesus resist temptation? (Matt. 4.4)

II. DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE LIE TO OURSELVES

- A. Eve convinced herself that it was okay to sin.
 1. First, the devil deceived the woman. (Gen. 3.4,7,22)
 2. Then Eve deceived herself. (Gen. 3.6)
- B. We struggle with sin because we lie to ourselves.
 1. **1 JOHN 1.8:** *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*
 2. Jesus refused to deceive Himself. (Matt. 26.39)

III. DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE IGNORE THE FUTURE

- A. God told Eve that there would be consequences.
 1. **GENESIS 2.17:** *"you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* (cf. Gen. 3.6)
 2. What was the result of what she did? (Gen. 3.22-24)
- B. We struggle with sin because we ignore the consequences.
 1. We reap what we sow. (Gal. 6.7,8).
 2. Examples of Jesus and David. (Heb. 12.2; 2 Sam. 12.11)

CONCLUSION: We can overcome when we believe.

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

September 14, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

A Key Ingredient to a Successful Marriage

There is not a single marriage that is without some degree of conflict. Mistakes are made. Sinful attitudes of selfishness appear. Respect for one another wanes. In our society and culture, problems in a relationship are justification for divorce. If there is a rift in your marriage or if your spouse does not behave the way you expected, then it is a simple matter of dissolving the marriage.

The difference between a successful marriage and a failed marriage is not the absence of conflict. It is the willingness of both husband and wife to sit down and work out whatever challenges arise. However, this attitude is lacking in many marriages today. Many go into marriage with the attitude that when things get difficult, there is an easy out. They stand before God and promise to commit to their spouse no matter what. But the words, "till death do us part" are spoken with no intention of living up to them.

God has always intended for marriage to be a lifelong commitment (Matt. 19.4-6). And a marriage will only be successful when both husband and wife are willing to put aside their pride and decide that no matter what happens, we will find a way to work out whatever differences come along. Instead of looking for reasons that will dissolve our marriage, husbands and wives need to find reasons to stay together. The most important reason is this: God hates divorce (Mal. 2.16).
CLP

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH

ISAIAH 53:5

INTRODUCTION:

1. Within the book of Isaiah, there are predictions of the coming of a specific Man, what He would do, and how He would live.
2. The prophecy of Isaiah 53 was specifically about Jesus and His suffering. [Read Isaiah 53; cf. Matt. 26:54; Luke 22:37; Acts 8:35]

I. THE BODY OF JESUS

- A. The coming Messiah would be given a body.
 1. **Hebrew 10:5:** *"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me."*
 2. Jesus is deity born in the flesh. (Heb. 5:7; John 1:14)
- B. What kind of body was Jesus given?
 1. **Isaiah 53:1:** His body would be nothing special.
 2. **Isaiah 53:2:** His body would be unattractive.

II. THE BURDEN OF JESUS

- A. The life of Jesus would be the life of a servant.
 1. **Matthew 20:28:** *"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"* Diakonos, table server.
 2. To have the heart of Jesus is to live to serve. (Phil. 2:7).
- B. How did Jesus live as a slave?
 1. **Isaiah 53:4:** *"Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows"*
 2. Jesus came to help us in our suffering. (Luke 4:18)
 3. **Isaiah 53:4:** *"Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted."* (cf. Luke 9:22)

III. THE BEATINGS OF JESUS

- A. The suffering of Jesus was in keeping with God's will.
 1. **Matthew 16:21:** *"He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things...and be killed, and be raised the third day."*
 2. **Matthew 16:22,23:** These were *"the things of God."*
- B. Consider the severity of His suffering.
 1. **Isaiah 53:5:** *"But He was wounded for our transgressions..."* (Heb. 12:2-4)
 2. **Isaiah 53:6:** *"And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."* He did this for you.

CONCLUSION: Through His suffering, we are justified. (Isa. 53:11)

You Shall Be Perfect

The Bible has always demanded perfection. At the same time, most of us understand that becoming perfect is impossible. How many times has our imperfection been linked to our humanity? When someone makes a mistake, they are quick to point out, "I'm only human." How can God expect of us that which is impossible? The discrepancy comes from a fundamental misunderstanding of the word "perfect." Over the next few weeks, we will explore Bible passages that will help us understand what God expects of us when He tells us to be perfect.

The phrase that makes up the title of this article is taken from a statement made by Jesus in Matthew 5. It is in verse 48 that Jesus says, *"Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."* In this passage, the idea of being perfect seems impossible even more so. We are not just expected to be perfect. We are to be as perfect as God is perfect. For flawed human beings, this might seem like an unreasonable and unrealistic expectation.

To understand what is expected of us, we need to first understand the word itself. What does it mean to be perfect? The word translated as "perfect" is the Greek word "telios." You might be surprised to learn that the word does carry the same definition as we attach to it today. The Bible word for perfect does not mean flawless. It means "brought to completion, fully developed" [Mounce]. This makes sense in light of what we read in Hebrews 5. In verses 14-16, the writer chastises those who should have been teachers but had not grown spiritually. He then says to those who were spiritually immature, *"Therefore, let us go on to perfection"* (Heb. 6:1). Those who were still babes in Christ needed to grow and become mature.

Now let's put this phrase into the context. In Matthew 5, Jesus is addressing the subject of love. Specifically, Jesus is telling us to love our enemies (Matt. 5:43-45). If we only love those who love us, we are no different than the Gentiles (Matt. 4:46,47). With those thoughts in mind, Jesus then reaches this conclusion: *"Therefore, you shall be perfect"* (Matt. 5:48). Contextually, Jesus is making reference to being mature as it relates to love. Jesus is not teaching a life of flawless behavior. He is teaching how to grow and fully develop our capacity to love. Loving even those who hate us is to love as God loves. That's why Jesus adds, *"...just as your Father in heaven is perfect"* (Matt. 5:45).

Loving your enemies is hard. Always wanting what is best for those who mistreat us might seem impossible. But that is what God expects of us. It brings to mind what Jesus told the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 when Jesus told His disciples, *"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"* (Matt. 19:26).