

YOU CAN RESIST TEMPTATION

JOB 31

INTRODUCTION:

1. We do our best to make good decisions, but sometimes we make mistakes and violate God's laws. (Jer. 44.16,17; 13.23)
2. Job was a "blameless and upright" man, but that's not how his friends saw him. (Job 1.8; 11.6; 22.5; 13.23; 23.3,4)
3. Our perception can help us resist temptation. (Prov. 23.7)

I. PROPER PERCEPTION OF SIN

- A. Twice in the chapter, Job equates sin with punishment.
 1. **JOB 31.11:** Lust is "iniquity deserving of judgment."
 2. **JOB 31.28:** Idolatry is "iniquity deserving of judgment."
- B. To guard our hearts, see sin as deserving of punishment.
 1. **ROMANS 6.23:** "The wages of sin is death."
 2. Two groups of people: Those who practice sin and those who approve of sin. (Rom. 1.29-32)

II. PROPER PERCEPTION OF GOD

- A. Three times, Job described the punitive nature of God.
 1. **JOB 31.2-4:** The allotment of God is destruction.
 2. **JOB 31.14:** "What then shall I do when God rises up?"
 3. **JOB 31.23:** "destruction from God is a terror to me"
- B. To guard our hearts, have a proper balanced view of God.
 1. We are to see God as punitive. (Rom. 1.23-32)
 2. We need to see God has patient. (Rom.11.22)

III. PROPER PERCEPTION OF SELF

- A. Twice in the chapter, Job examined his life.
 1. **JOB 31.18:** Job took care of the fatherless and widow.
 2. **JOB 31.29,30:** Job never cursed his enemies.
- B. To guard our hearts, have a proper view of self.
 1. How do you react to sin? (Ps. 32.5; 1 Sam. 15.21,22)
 2. Job was not blind to his past. (Job 13.23)
 3. How to scrutinize your life. (1 Pet. 2.2; Prob. 12.1)

CONCLUSION: Resisting the devil begins in the mind.

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

January 26, 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 7:00 PM

BETRAYED BY OUR SPEECH

Controlling what we say is one of the most challenging responsibilities expected of us. James reminded us that "no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3.8). One can get into a load of trouble by speaking without first considering what he should say.

How well we control our tongue is a measure of our character and condition of the heart. Jesus warned, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12.34). Just after Jesus was arrested, some accused Peter of being with Christ. On three different occasions, Peter denied it. When Peter vehemently denied it, his accuser recognized his manner of speaking which showed him to be a Galilean fitting the description of those who had been with Christ. Therefore, they said, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you" (Matt. 26.73).

When you use foul and inappropriate language, your heart is exposed. Your speech betrays you (Col. 3.8). When you lie and speak deceptive words, you are exposed. Your speech betrays you (John 8.44). When you stand up and accuse others wrongfully, you are exposed. Your speech betrays you (John 8.48,49).

May we seek to have "sound speech that cannot be condemned." (Titus 2.8), that we may reflect the character of Christ. CLP

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RECEIVING THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD

Acts 2:38

INTRODUCTION:

1. Do you want to know how to enjoy the blessing of forgiveness?
2. Aphasis is found five times in the book of Acts and is translated as either remission or forgiveness. (Acts 2.38; 13.38)
3. If you want to know how to receive forgiveness, you need to read what God has to say about forgiveness.

I. TO BE FORGIVEN, YOU MUST SEE THE NEED

- A. **ACTS 26.18:** *“to open their eyes in order to turn them from darkness to light...that they may receive forgiveness of sins”*
- B. **2 CORINTHIANS 7,10:** *“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted”*

II. TO BE FORGIVEN, YOU MUST HEAR THE GOSPEL

- A. **ACTS 13:38:** *“through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins.”* (cf. Acts 13.32,32,33,38)
- B. You can be forgiven when you hear the message of the gospel. (Rom. 10.13,14)

III. TO BE FORGIVEN, YOU MUST BELIEVE IN JESUS

- A. **ACTS 10.43:** *“through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”*
 1. This is what Peter was commanded to say. (Acts 10.33)
 2. In whom are we to believe? (Acts 10.36-38)
- B. To receive the forgiveness of sins, you must believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. (John 3.16)

IV. TO BE FORGIVEN, YOU MUST REPENT

- A. **ACTS 5.31:** *“to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”* (cf. Acts 5.30,31)
- B. To be forgiven, you must change the way you live by changing the way you think.

V. TO BE FORGIVEN, YOU MUST BE BAPTIZED

- A. **ACTS 2.38:** *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”*
- B. This is a reaction to hearing the gospel. (Acts 2.36,37)

CONCLUSION: It doesn't matter what you are told by others. It matters only what God says!

LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

Are you afraid of the Day of Judgment? If you are living with unresolved sin, then you should be afraid. We are told that *“if we sin willfully...”* what remains is *“...a fearful expectation of judgment”* (Heb. 10.26,27). But fear does not have to be a part of our lives. We can live our lives with the confidence and hope of heaven (1 John 4.17). That is because our fear is cast out by love.

How does love cast out fear? If you study 1 John 4, you will find a passage that emphasizes the love of God. In practically every verse from verse 7 through verse 16, we will read that God loves us and demonstrated that love by sending His only begotten Son. Those thoughts lead us to verses 17-19 which teach us that love casts out fear. The love that casts out fear is the love of God which moved Him to send Jesus and offer the gift of salvation to anyone who will accept it through obedience to the gospel (cf. Heb. 5.9). Combine that with Hebrews 2.14,15 which says that we have been released from the fear of death because of Jesus.

In 1 John 4.17, we read that *“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”* Our boldness (confidence) of heaven is developed when the love of God has been perfected in us. The word translated as “perfect” carries the idea of reaching full maturity. The concept is that we have come to fully know the love that God has for us. And this realization gives us confidence. Through Jesus and our obedience to Him, we do not have to live in fear of the judgment. We can live in full assurance of heaven having fully realized that we are loved by God.

In contrast, there are some who live in fear. It is a life of torment. They are always worrying and wondering if they are going to make it to heaven (1 John 4.18). Why do they live in fear? Verse 18 goes on to explain that *“he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”* The one who is afraid of the judgment is the one who has not fully come to understand the love of God. When I know that God loves me, and I fully understand the lengths He went to so I can be saved, it will remove my fear and give me confidence of heaven.

If you do not live your life in keeping with the New Testament, *“do not be haughty, but fear”* (Rom. 11.20). But if you believe that you are loved by God and are living your life by His standard, you can live without fear.

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