

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

August 2015

## Curiosity and Consequences

### TEMPTATION

Temptation has been a problem for the human race from the very beginning, starting with Adam and Eve to today. There is no escape from the desire to perform an act that we may enjoy immediately, or in the short term, but we will probably regret later. Temptation may also come in the form of coaxing, or manipulating, a person into committing an act out of desire or fear.

In Genesis chapter 3, we see that Satan deceived Eve into performing an action that cost her the Garden of Eden, but most importantly, her relationship with God. Our desire today, as children of God, is to overcome temptation instead of giving in.

*"No temptation has seized you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."* 1 Corinthians 10:13

This verse tells us that we will all be tempted and that there are similar pitfalls that we all must avoid. But it also says that, for the believer, there is always a way to escape temptation, to endure it, and to reject sin. My question to you is HOW?

Before becoming a follower of Christ, sin was not a problem. There were times when I might get a twinge of conscience when I performed certain acts, but for the most part, I engaged in sin without any remorse. Once I became a Christian, the once dead conscience was revitalized by the Spirit of God. Now, alarms begin to sound, and I now feel guilt, and begin to recognize the temptations. It becomes a war with the devil

and the flesh, all day and every day. That is why, in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-15), we are told to pray *"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* We must pray always to be directed away from temptation and to find the way of escape. With God's help and strength all things are possible.

*<sup>22</sup> "Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart"* 2 Timothy 2:22

So how do believers handle temptation? Do we run to the book store and search the shelves for a self-help book on how to overcome depression, anxiety, fear, doubt, or bad habits? No, when we turn away from our old life, and follow Jesus, we become new. As Christians, we are reconciled to God and we have access to God's resources — His Spirit of power and His Word. The Holy Spirit reminds us of God's Word. It is through the Word of God that we handle temptation. Our Lord handled His temptation in the wilderness through prayer and fasting, and Jesus responded by quoting scripture. No matter how Satan twisted words or made promises, Jesus knew the truth of the matter and relied on what God said.

*<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.* Matthew 4:8-11

(Continued on page 2)

Jesus succeeded where Adam failed, and secured for us the way of righteousness that we need. He demonstrated how to stand firm on the Word of God and rely on the Holy Spirit's power in prayer and fasting. Through faith in Christ, we can do the same. Jesus succeeded because He heeded and obeyed the Word of God. Adam failed because he did not heed or obey the word of God. Jesus fought back Satan's temptations. Three times Satan tempted Jesus to disobey God; and three times Jesus retreated to God's Word and resisted Satan.

Jesus taught us to live in a community for a reason. There is nothing wrong with calling a friend for help before the need for repentance.

*"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of 3 strands is not quickly broken."* Ecclesiastes 4:12

There are times when we need to call for back up. Jesus established the church for very specific reasons. One of them is so that believers won't have to fight alone. Our church is full of men and women who will quickly come to our aid so that when temptation strikes we can encourage each other. Self-control is from the Holy Spirit. Protection from the enemy is from God. But when we follow His word, we join in His work. God has laid out specific actions we can take to overcome temptation. It is up to us to take them.

In John's first letter (1John), he shows us WHO to run to when we are running away from temptation. If we love God and abide in Him by seeking to do His will, running to Him when we are in trouble will

come naturally. Galatians 5:24 sets us on the right track as well. If we surrender to the passions of our flesh because we value God more, our temptations won't be easily ignored. And it is likely we won't put ourselves into a place where we can be easily tempted. We must know the truth.

*11"Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. 12 Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes. 13 With my lips I have declared All the judgments of our mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. 16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word".*

*Psalm 119: 11-18*

Jesus' method for handling temptation is the same for us: **Through the Word of God.** We must recognize that God's Word is truth and that Satan is the father of lies. The Bible is not a source book for quotes to support the latest Christian self-help fad. Our pastor preaches the Word of God and gives us a steady diet of all that is written in the Word. The people of God are sanctified through the living Word of God. Paul said to Timothy:

*1"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction.*

*2 Timothy 4:1-2*

If you are a believer in Christ, then you must know the Word of God. Read it as a devotional and study it, seek to live your life by its words. There is no excuse for a believer to be ignorant of God's Word.

*2 "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good".*

*1Peter 2:2-3*

We are to pray that we not be led into temptation and to be delivered for evil. Paul says that the believer desires to do what is right, but does not have the power within himself to do it alone. We must acknowledge our dependence on God for our sanctification and trust in faith that the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us on our walk with Jesus Christ.

Respectfully,  
Chuck Bender

**Connect**

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## **Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ**

### **TLC**

Together Loving Christ

**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

**Grow in the Word!**

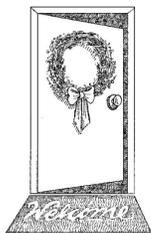
### **Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.**

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine



*Nursery Services Provided*

Join us for the Open House at the Parsonage!



**OPEN HOUSE**  
*at the*  
**PARSONAGE**

Sunday, August 2, 2015  
After Worship Service  
12:30 to 1:30

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)

Because he himself  
was tested by what  
he suffered, he is able  
*to help those*  
who are being tested.

Hebrews 2:18, NRSV





Kid's

# Connection

August, 2015

Below you will find a word search that has synonyms for temptation. Let's see if you can find all of the words.

J E O Y N T D T P K D J E D G I O R S T H B Y G Y  
X E L X S N X E N E U G R R N U E H E O P Y D U M  
F S G R D E R H C I R P E F V W L X D R G M O N E  
D B R X N M M E Q Y Q S L R O L A H U J T F E Q W  
T U K K X T D Y D W H U U P V U J Q C J P U Z T S  
L O V B G N B U X O E S N A B L G N T O I T I S W  
B I J O P A T Q D N V H O B S J O X I T R A P F T  
P A S J V H A Q C I C W F L L I C X O S N C Q G W  
C T I D F C V E I N V I T A T I O N N W P V V G V  
U F R T V N Z D M W T O L C Y Z O N P A D S V Q S  
A Z G M A E B K U F I H A H M J V S J Y O U G N D  
I E L R O W S T A K H R N M E Z W M E D Z Q L L D  
E B C A C U V E W R T A M L U K J A Q K Z K X T V  
O P D H G R L J O T E C I T N E C J L F V I F E F  
L D T C T I F L A F R I D D X S S K P U O B K B O

ATTRACTION  
BAIT  
CHARM  
ENCHANTMENT

ENTICE  
INFLUENCE  
INVITATION  
PERSUASION

POWER  
SEDUCTION  
SWAY  
TEMPT  
TRAP

## Trials and Temptations

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

## Minutes of the Elders Meeting, held on July 8, 2015

Attendees: Ted Gehman, Bob Hettlinger, Sham Nair, Pastor Weber, Glenda Kasza, Sam Jacob, Chuck Bender, Phyllis Clark.

Devotion and Prayer: 1 Peter 4:7-11. In these verses Peter writes to us about our attitude and behavior toward others. He says we must be clear minded and self-controlled so that we may pray and be heard by God. We are challenged to be like Christ, and to speak “the very words of God.” As Christians, we cannot afford to make compromises. As we practice what Peter is saying, we mature in the Lord, and our faith is strengthened. We must learn and become stronger even as Satan tempts us and tries to discourage us. We are to love each other deeply, offer hospitality, and use our gifts to serve others.

### **Ministry Reports:**

Treasurer: Budgeted bank balance, \$2,391.88.

Worship: The worship leaders position has been filled. Tyler Martin will be moving into the parsonage the week of August 10th. We want to have a dedication service for him on August 16th, and he will start his first worship service with us on the 23rd. We will be contacting him regarding his needs for furnishing the parsonage.

Hospitality & Encouragement: Focus on new members to the church, planning visits and encouraging life of the Church. Planning is under way to take our new church members out to lunch. Cards and flowers have been sent for birthdays, anniversaries and to those who are ill or unable to attend church.

Stewardship & Support services: The Stewardship team has a scheduled work day for July 18, 9 to 1pm. The new roof on the parsonage has been completed. Final touch-ups on the parsonage will be finished this month. Final bids on the church parking lot need to be presented for review.

Ladies Ministry: The Ladies have an outing planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, at the Ball Seed Gardens, 9 am to noon.

Evangelism & Outreach: The team is in need of volunteers to help with planning and upcoming events.

Men's Ministries: We are hoping that the men's meetings will begin again in the fall.

### **Old & New Business:**

- There will be a parsonage open house for the whole church to view the hard work and accomplishments of the church members. The open house will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August after church 12:30 to 1:30 and all are invited.
- We would like Hospitality & Encouragement to arrange for a few starter meals for Tyler when he arrives.

The next Elders meeting will be held on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of Aug.

Sunny Place would like to welcome **Tyler Martin** as our new worship leader.

Please join us for the following:

August 16<sup>th</sup> ....We will pray over Tyler as he prepares for his ministry in our church.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> ....This will be the first Sunday that Tyler will be leading our service.

The Capital Campaign Leadership Team and Stewardship Team  
Invites you to an:

## OPEN HOUSE *at the* PARSONAGE

Join us on Sunday, August 2nd at 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. for a tour, fellowship, and snacks; and see for yourselves, how your generous and faithful giving thus far, has enabled Sunny Place Church to repair and update our parsonage. *Come and see what the Lord has done!*

### August Sunday School Line-Up Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Bible  
Study

#### “Life Principles”

Study led by John Gryparis



### Children’s Classes

**Grades 1-6** led by Carla Weber

**Youth 7-12** led by Kim Gehman &  
Chuck Bender

***Nursery services are provided***



**Thursday Evenings  
7:00 p.m.  
at Sunny Place**

### “To Live is Christ- To Die is Gain”

A DVD study through Philipians  
Led by Pastor Pete



# AUGUST

# 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  at the PARSONAGE	3	4	5 Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	6 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	7	8
9	10	11	12 Christian Education Meeting 7:15 p.m. at Sunny Place	13 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	14 Living Proof Live Conference Milwaukee, Wisconsin	15
16 Dedication of Tyler Martin Light Lunch 12:30 p.m. Sweet Hour of Prayer at Sunny Place	17	18	19 Stewardship Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	20 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31			Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		