

EVERY MAN HAS HIS OWN REWARD

This message came from the book of Corinthians. **1 Corinthian 3:8** states:

“The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose and each will be rewarded according to his labor.”

Paul wrote this letter to the church of Corinth because of reports he received that the church had some problems. These reports were not idle gossip, the church itself had sent a list of questions to Paul and those questions helped confirm what he was told. The questions you ask sometimes identify or confirm the areas you need help with. The church was experiencing divisions, sexual immorality, jealousy and failure to discipline. Paul’s message was a spiritual house cleaning even though he was addressing worldly matters. He wanted them to be holy and live a righteous life for the word. It is impossible to be holy with God. Consequently, when we allow are separated from God and allow sin to rule in our lives, we will reap the consequences of our decision.

The problem of sin begins with temptation. This is where most Christians are defeated. There are seven (7) steps in temptation:

- ◇ The Temptation
The first sinful thought
- ◇ Drawn away
Continued meditation on that sinful thought
- ◇ The Lust
Delighting in the view
- ◇ Entice
The awakening of the will
- ◇ Lust conceived
When you yield to the sin
- ◇ Actual sin
All the shadows are taken away; we have a full understanding of what we’ve done
- ◇ Death
The result of all of the above.

Paul gave the church strong encouragement about temptation and sinful desires. He indicated that temptation happens to everyone so no one should feel isolated in **1 Corinthians 10:13**

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. 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 stand up under it.” (NIV)

Know that others have resisted the same temptation you face, therefore, so can you. Any temptation can be resisted because God helps you resist it. God helps you to resist temptation in the following ways:

1. Recognize the people and situations that give you trouble
2. Run away from things that you know are wrong
3. Choose to do only what is right
4. Pray to God for help
5. Seek friends who love God and can help you when you are tempted.

Running away from a tempting situation is your first step to victory

2 Timothy 2:22

“Flee from evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Even King David, whom God loved, fell victim to temptation; he went through all the steps in the process of temptation discussed above. He saw Bathsheba taking a bath and kept her in his mind, and thus temptation began. He was drawn by the lust and became so enticed he conceived a plan to get her, even though he knew she did not belong to him. The actual sin was committed when he gave into temptation and slept with her; as well as arranging for the death of her husband. The final consequence of this sin was the death of the child to him and Bathsheba.

“Every man has his own reward”

“Every decision we make is a seed into our destiny”

God is calling his people to repentance with love. David repented his sin and God forgave him; however David had to deal with consequences of his actions. That one act, which started with temptation, ended in death and future turmoil in David's household.

“It's impossible to live holy without God”

We need God's words buried deep in our hearts and soul. Be patient and let God help you to stand against and overcome whatever temptations we may face. We must be aware that the enemy seeks to destroy us by using temptation.

When faced with temptation, speak God's words out of your mouth and declare His words over your situation. We can win the battle against temptation and sin. There's hope if you allow the Lord to guide you.

It gives God great pleasure when we go to Him repenting of our sins. In spite of the mistakes that David made, and the consequences he lived with, God still blessed him with a son, Solomon.

We have choices to make. Are we going to continue in our old ways, keeping us from God's presence and blessings, or are we going to let the Holy Spirit fire up a revival inside of us so that sin cannot stand the sight of us?

Remember these two principles:

- **Life is the sum total of the choices you make**
- **Every decision we make is a seed sown towards our destiny**