

Overcoming Temptation

by Wayne Goff

While it is readily admitted that human beings sin and that none has escaped the trappings of sin except Jesus, we also should arm ourselves with the mentality that we have died to sin! If you have trouble overcoming a besetting sin or a temptation to that sin, then consider one attitude that may lie behind the sin: **disrespect for God**.

We may not associate *disrespect for God* with our struggle with sin, but it is *undeniably* connected to the sin of man. The apostle Paul in Romans 3 quotes passage after passage from the Old Testament convicting all Jewish people of sin (vv. 10-18). In the list of sins are such things as deceit, cursing, bitterness, and murder. But notice with me, if you will, something stated twice in this context: (1) *"There is none who seeks after God"* (v. 11); and (2) *"There is no fear of God before their eyes"* (v. 18). Such *disrespect for God* is at the root of our problem! What was true of the Jewish nation was also true of the Gentile nations (Romans 1). And it is equally true today. Our nation is quickly turning into the same kind of nation which God destroyed in 586 B.C.! God is kind, loving, compassionate, patient, and forgiving — but He will not tolerate sin nor our indifference and apathy to it!

Jehovah God sent messengers (prophets) warning the nation of Judah of their wickedness, *"But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy"* (2 Chron. 36:16). It was such a pitiful site to see corrupt, hard-hearted people who had no will for doing right, serving God and living for the good of their society. But we are quickly becoming that people in America today.

Dear reader, **how much respect** to you hold for God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit? If you struggle with sin *habitually*, then may I suggest that you begin reading your Bible, studying about the great love of God for you, and touching your own heart with His mercy and goodness.

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