

Temptation and Sin
1st Timothy 6:9-12

September 17, 2017

9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. 11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

First Timothy addresses and issue, the conflict within the inner being between the person that I am in the world and the person I am as a spiritual being. First Timothy also addresses how to live Godly life. It is the same problem then and now, throughout history and into future. It is the will of God versus the will of selfish humans. There are two camps (there are always two camps) the "God way" versus the "human way."

The Scripture says a lot. The sin of desire of wealth and riches. The consequence of such desire is the loss of faith. The child of God pursues righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. You are called to eternal life. So, stick with your faith that you testified to when you made your public confession of faith. The Scripture says a lot but it just lays out the facts; the do's and the don'ts. The Scripture does not provide insight on how we get there, how to resist desire and pursue a Godly life. It's not easy. If all it takes is a public confession, Christian action, and spiritual discipline, why do so many fall away from faith? It also takes a spiritual awakening; a revelation within the individual. We can talk the talk all day long and preach it and teach it and read the Bible. But until you get the revelation life is a life of struggle between the Christian I should be and the Christian I am. You have to see yourself as a child of God. Not just say it but embrace it, and be a Christ being.

God's Way is the divine, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. God's way is an attitude of love, care for others, and care for the earth. God's way values life and the rest of creation. The main focus of God's way is the creator; the divine.

The human way has an attitude of what I want and what's in it for me. It is focused on self gain, the struggle to have life my way and values possessions. The problem that First Timothy addresses is not wealth. The problem is not being rich or having money. The problem being successful and being financial rewarded for success. The Scripture is specific it calls out those who want to be rich. The problem is desire and greed. Those who want to be rich do not want it so that they can go out and help others. They don't want it for a legacy for the future ministry. They don't want it so they can give it away for God's glory.

The problem then is the problem now. It is placing value on the self to the point where it is detrimental to the well being of others. The problem is not that you value the self, we all have to value the self. The problem is being selfish, where you value the self to the point where it is detrimental to the well being of others.

I said the Scripture says a lot but does not provide insight. What is required is a revelation, the ability to see yourself as a child of God. To see yourself as Child of God is to see how you are as a human being and to evolve beyond that perception to see yourself as a divine, spiritual being. We prefer to see ourselves as Christians. But Christians are

not just people that confess belief and come together once a week. Christians are people that see ourselves as people of faith. For the Christian is not just a follower of Jesus; the Christian is a living copy of Christ.

Today's problem is the same basic problem of the Bible over and over again. It's God's way which is love, care for others, and care for the earth versus the human way which is always wanting more and is focused on the self at expense of well being of others.

First Timothy condemns selfish desire. We say to the self we don't have that, we just whatever is bigger and better, a new TV, phone, computer, car, or house. First Timothy encourages the pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. But how do you get there? Well, for one thing, you are a child of God. As a person of God you are a spiritual being. Your spiritual being has the power to resist temptation.

Take a look at Jesus (always). For you to live a godly life, a lifestyle of the divine self, the spirit filled being you need to understand that the Holy Spirit is given to you by Jesus. The Holy Spirit now lives within you. Overcoming desire is done by living a Godly life as a Spirit filled being. You participate in worship, Bible study, have daily devotions, and spend time in prayer. Whereas, prayer is not "God I have been good so give unto me." Prayer is communion with God and fellowship with God. Prayer is one on one conversation with God. It is listening to God, discerning, reflecting, and being one with God. The Christian is a Jesus being - not human being, but a Jesus being. The Christian is a Christ being.

Conflict of life comes from living the God way versus the selfish human way. You can overcome desire by your focus. Temptation comes from a focus on the self and a desire for things for the self. Since Jesus is divine, pure, and Godly. Then temptation had no affect on him. Temptation has no affect on you unless you lose focus on divine and start to focus on the self. Temptation was possible for Jesus due to his human nature but when the Devil tempted him in desert it had no effect on him due to his divine nature. You are like that. You are not God but you have the Holy Spirit within you. The Christian is not a human being but Jesus being. Therefore you too can conquer temptation if you maintain focus on the divine.

Once you know this it changes your life entirely. You are connected to Jesus. You switch camps from the "human way" which is materialistic and values possessions to the "God way" of a spirit filled life. The human way is a life of struggle, chasing dreams, wealth, materialism, and worry. It is a life of desire for things you do not have and wish you had more and cherish all the things that you do have and wish you had more. But the theology is that God is with us. The Holy Spirit is within you and elevates your being from human to spiritual. Now you are not separated from God, you are in communion with God, connected to God. This connected being does not have desire. We live in a world of desire but the spiritual being is filled with warm glowing love of God and it engulfs your entire being. The divine self is a spirit filled person that is manifested with the divine. We are in communion with Christ. As such there is no temptation & sin.