



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



Vol. 2 SN. 029 A monthly online publication of Watchman Outreach Mission November 2022



FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you November 2022 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Overcoming Temptation".

Temptation is strong suggestion to do evil and sin against God. Our lead text Mathew 4:1-11 explored how Jesus faced the devil in His hour of temptation and overcame. Temptation is common to all men. No one is immune against temptation. Christ our Lord, God and Governor of the universe was tempted but He never sinned. His experience and those of many others in the scriptures like Joseph, Daniel and Job assured us that we can also overcome all temptations and live victorious Christian life. Temptation is not sin. It is when we yield to it that we sin.

This month's magazine explored how Jesus in His days was tempted by the devil and emerged victorious. His responses to each of the three temptations that He faced are highly instructive regarding how we should respond when tempted. The areas of life covered by these temptations are also revealing regarding the areas and circumstances in which the devil may come to tempt us. For instance, the first temptation was to make Jesus who has been fasting for forty days and was hungry to satisfy His hunger in an illegitimate manner. We are prone to the same kind of enticement.

Secondly, he wanted Jesus to promote Himself and His image by doing something spectacular that served no real divine purpose. We could also face the same kind of temptation and many do daily. Finally, the devil requested for worship and promised Christ promotion, prosperity and great possessions; indeed the whole world as His reward. Jesus overcame. We can if we follow His example and footsteps. The inspiration and encouragement that we need to do so are clearly explained in this edition of Watchman's Trumpet.

It is my sincere prayer that as you read and digest this spiritual menu, consistent victory over all suggestions and enticements of the devil here on earth and the crown of life promised overcomers in eternity will be yours in Jesus name; it is my prayer that those who read who have fallen will rise again and begin from now to live in constant continuous victory in Jesus Name! Welcome.

QUEST FOR MEETING OF BASIC NEEDS AND MATERIAL WEALTH

"And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" Mathew 4:2-4.



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At the time the temptation began, Jesus had already fasted for forty days in the wilderness. He was hungry. In the first temptation, the devil suggested that Jesus should turn stone into bread and eat. Thus the devil suggested that the law of necessity is sufficient ground to break God's law. Jesus said "No". He responded by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3 that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceed from the mouth of God. Acute desire for food for material possession has always and still remains a great source of temptation for many today. Christ demonstrated to us clearly that in this area victory is possible through resisting the devil, resisting the temptation and waiting for God's time.

We shall consider three subtopics

1. Focus on life's purpose
2. Authority of God's word and disciplined life
3. Waiting on God and depending on Him

1. Focus of life's purpose

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word

that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" **Mathew 4:4.**

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" **Hebrews 11:24-25**

We should be wary about desperation over any basic need that would tempt us to break God's commandment, abandon our commitment to God and reliance on Him to meet our needs. Christ's response revealed that it is wrong to pursue means of livelihood and sustenance through self-serving means. It is better to be a godly illiterate than raise school fees by prostitution. It is better to sleep on the street than sleep in Dagon's house. It is better to do menial jobs with university degree until God answers our prayers for better employment than secure banking jobs by joining cults. Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Jesus could turn the stones into bread but He did not because the suggestion or idea was not from God, it is not evangelistic – which is the main purpose why Christ came into the world, the act does not glorify God but flesh and the devil, it would definitely not impact lasting satisfaction and reward. We must be purpose-oriented in all that we do in life. Believers are on mission on earth to evangelize the world, edify believers and bring glory to God by living lives committed to divine purpose through our messages and manners.

2. Authority of God's word and disciplined life

"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." **Mathew 4:3.**

"For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence" **Romans 14:20.**

The word of God is the final authority and guide of believers rule for life. What the word of God says

we are is what we are. The word of God declared those who have genuinely repented from sin with evident transformation of life and fruits of repentance to be the sons and daughters of God. No amount of man's effort to prove can improve on scriptures' claim; God's word is settled forever. Heaven and earth will pass away but God's word shall never pass away until all is fulfilled. Jesus' miracles are miracles of mercy to those desperately in need not magical acts for entertainment. Furthermore, turning the stones into bread as suggested by the devil would mean that Christ has lost faith in God's ability to meet His needs. The believer should learn from this. Every suggestion of an easy way out or up by the devil that we yield to indicate a distrust of our faith in God's ability to meet our needs. Yielding to such temptation will separate us from God and attract many other disastrous consequences. The scriptures rather than appetite must govern the course of our lives. We are warned that for the sake of food we should not destroy the work of God. It is wrong to eat whatever will make us or anyone else to stumble. It is evil for the man that eats with offence **Romans 14:20.**



3. Waiting on God and Depending on Him

"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" **Mathew 6:31, 33.**

We learn from Christ's response that in our moments of need, we must wait on God and wait for Him. We must wait for His timing. His response also confirmed that man does not only have a body that must be nourished by bread but also a spiritual life that must be tended by the word of God and prepared for glory. Neglecting any of these especially man's spiritual need may come with serious consequences.



The circumstances of the lives Israel lived in the wilderness limits productive occupation as means of sustenance but God fed them. We here learn that during economic downturn or meltdown and in times of overwhelming unemployment in the nation, God has and could evolve supernatural means to care for those who in spite of the difficulty of the times in which they lived remained loyal to Him and consecrated to obey His words. If we lack jobs or materials things as a result of prevailing circumstances God can and would supernaturally sustain us. So we need not fear, fret or follow the devil's suggestion for cheap, easy compromising way out or alternative. Those who have abundant material possessions but are disconnected from God are paupers in the real sense of the word. Riches of grace, riches of divine gifts, riches of divine presence and power are the only true and lasting riches. Jesus warned us against covetousness **Luke 12:13-32.** He warned us not to nourish our body at the expense of our soul and spirit. A healthy work-life balance must include efforts to meet our basic as well as physically necessities and also remain alive spiritually serving God. We learn from Christ's response in this first temptation that is not excusable for believers to sin because they want to eat. We have a loving and compassionate Father who knows our needs and have all it takes to meet them and sustain us. He is willing to do so provided we remain loyal to Him and obey to His word.





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For November 2022

1. Thank God for possibility of victory over temptations
2. Thank the Lord for His exemplary life and pattern or model of victory over the devil and all temptations
3. Pray for Holy Spirit’s help and adequate recall of relevant scriptures when facing temptation or persecution
4. Pray for freedom from pride and vainglory
5. Pray for freedom from lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes
6. Pray for life of whole-hearted devotion and consecration to God
7. Pray for divine help, support and help during trials
8. Pray for grace and strength for all believers who are in any kind of temptation right now
9. Pray for consistent Christian living here on earth and crown of life at the end of your Christian journey

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint,” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

For more info on the Mission, log on to:
www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

PRIDE OF LIFE AND TEMPTING GOD

"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" **Mathew 4:5, 6.**

In the second temptation, the devil suggested or prompted Christ to jump down from the pinnacle of the Temple *"If He is the Son of God"*. He told Christ to cast Himself down, that God promised to protect Him from any harm if He does so quoting Psalm 91:11, 12 but omitting this phrase *"to keep thee in all thy ways"*. He quoted it thus *"He shall give His angels charge concerning thee and in their hands shall bear these up lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone"*. He added the phrase *"lest at any time"*. It was not part of the scripture reference.

We shall consider three subtopics

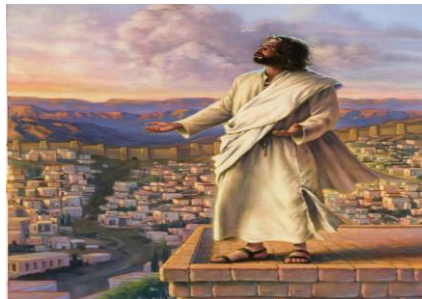
1. Misquoting God's word - a red signal
2. Peril of pride and vainglory
3. Resisting and rejecting devil's suggestions

1. Misquoting God's word - a red signal

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" **Revelation 22:18, 19.**

Taken together this scripture as

quoted by the devil with crucial omission and well-placed opinionated inclusion seems to suggest that no matter what Christ does or wherever He is, angels at God's command will always protect Christ. Christ could see though devil's lies and manipulation. However, rather than enter into debate and argument with the devil, He quoted another more relevant and more powerful scripture to overturn devil's presumptuous quote, making him and future readers to know how presumptuous such idea or suggestion was. Christ stated that it is written (quoting Deuteronomy 6:16), *"thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God"*. This quotation was the first part. The completion or remainder stated *"as ye tempted Him in Massah"*. *"Massah"* means *"proof"*. It was the name given to the place in Rephidim where in the face of acute thirst Israelites fought with Moses and queried him to show them the evidence that God was in their midst. They imply that the pillar of cloud by the day and the pillar of fire by night as well as eating of Manna everyday was not sufficient proof of divine presence. Their own desired sign and not God's sovereign will must be the evidence that God was in their midst. Such idea was preposterous, arrogant and an evidence of unbelief.



2. Peril of pride and vainglory

"Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" **Mathew 4:7.** *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;..."* **Philippians 2:3** *"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble"* **James 4:6.**

Attempt to jump down from the pinnacle of the Temple when no business of God or kingdom interest is at stake is an evidence of pride and vain glory. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

The devil and not God set Christ on the pinnacle of the Temple. God's promise gives no assurance of protection when adventurous canal men wander out of the will of God into regions that are not in any way connected to God's business and kingdom activities. The promise of God quoted guarantees protection not *"at anytime"* as insinuated by the Devil but when we are *"on our way"* which should be the way of duty, and walk according to God's purpose.

3. Resisting and rejecting devil's suggestions

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" **James 4:7.**

In this second temptation, the devil did not cast Jesus down but suggested that He should cast Himself down. We here learn relative to temptation that the region of men's will is sovereign. The devil cannot force us to do what we are unwilling to do. We have a choice in the matter. He cannot cast us down but He can introduce ideas to us that suggest we cast ourselves down to gain some points or advantage.

If we keep casting ourselves down and expect that angels will lift us up, we live with delusion and self-deceit. God and His holy angels will only do for us what we are inclined and willing to do. If we are willing to climb and keep climbing, advancing in our spiritual growth and maturity, God and His holy angels will give us all the help we need. He will give us all the strength and grace we need to stand for truth and promote godliness if we desire it not if we don't. We do not need to engage in stunts to convince anyone of our status as God's children. Believers are never entertainers but soul winners.



ENTANGLEMENT BY DEVIL'S WORSHIP

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me" **Mathew 4:8, 9.**

In the third and last temptation Mathew recorded that the devil took Jesus to an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world and its glory. These he promised to give to Christ if He would fall down and worship him. The repulsive, intolerable nature of such idea made Jesus indignant. He commanded Satan to go away from Him and quoting from Deuteronomy 10:20, He showed that only God deserves men's worship.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Concept and implication of Worship
2. Temptation by desire for what we see
3. Victory through watchfulness

1. Concept and implication of Worship

"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" **Mathew 4:10.**

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" **Romans 6:16**

The concept of worship in the Bible centered around three ideas. First, an establishment of Master-servant relationship; secondly, obligation of homage in form of public acknowledgement of loyalty to a lord or ruler, this can be done by stooping, bowing down crouching.



The third idea is closely connected with the second this is prescribed obligatory service. Within these context, when the devil demanded Christ's worship, he was suggesting that Christ should accept him as His master, pay homage to him and enlist under his rule for mandatory service. If Jesus does this, He shall receive from the devil all the kingdoms of the world and its glory. Devil's expectation of such disposition from Christ or even any human being is preposterous (absurd). Many in human history out of ignorance, desperation or impatience have willingly and deliberately walked into the devil's house to receive wealth, fame and regal authority at the expense of their soul. The Lord Jesus asked *"what shall it profit a man if he gained the whole world and loose his soul?"* The Lord promised us that if we seek God first and seek the righteousness in His kingdom all other things shall be added unto us. There is therefore no justifiable reason why any child of God should worship the devil.

2. Temptation from desire for what we see

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;" **Mathew 4:8**

'But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed' **James 1:14.**

The fact that this temptation came through the eyes is noteworthy. We need to protect our hearts by censoring what we allow our eyes to watch or see and the suggestions they bring to us. We should be warned by Adam and Eve's failure in Eden that it is not everything our eyes see that our hands must touch or that we should desire to possess. Adam, Eve, Samson, Ahab, and Solomon are causalities of unrestrained lust of the eyes.

3. Victory through watchfulness

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" **Mathew 26:41**
"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" **1Timothy 6:6, 7**

Those desperate to be rich will fall into temptations, snares and hurtful lusts which will damn them. In God, in His



worship and service, in total devotion and allegiance to Him is all the best we can ever hope to have or be; abundant life comes through sustained unbroken relationship with Christ and not outside it. Every year, get- rich- quick fixes and methods to achieve fame and wealth are being introduced into the world by the devil, in most cases at the expense of man's lasting happiness and eternal wellbeing. We must be vigilant and sober. We must be content to possess what God promised and lack whatever in His wisdom He withholds. Such attitude will portray us as responsible children of God and help us remain focused on our main goal- that of spending everlasting life in God's presence at the end of our earthly life. The devil will do everything possible to truncate this dream including the offering of cheap, quick but damning alternatives. God's gift in God's time remains forever the best. The first commandment clearly warned that we should have no other god beside the Lord. Jesus emphasized in His response to this third temptation that only God deserves our worship and service. Like Christ and in accordance with the scriptures, we can resist and rebuke the devil; he will flee from us James 4:7. Anyone who worships the devil to gain an advantage or anything, the person and the supposed gain automatically becomes the devil's possession in time and in eternity.

CHRIST'S TEMPTATION AND OUR VICTORY

*"Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him" **Mathew 4:11**. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" **Hebrews 4:15**.*

We shall consider three sub topics

1. The leading of the Spirit
2. Crucial life's questions
3. Divine help and blessedness of victory over temptation

1. Leading of the Spirit

*"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" **Mathew 4:1**.*

*"...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" **Isaiah 59:19***

Immediately after His Baptism and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Him like a dove, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. We note here a unique difference between the temptation of Christ and that of natural men.

Natural men are drawn into temptation by inordinate affection and lust James 1:14. Christ does not have such a tendency or nature. Yet, it pleased God that He should show us the way on how to obtain and retain victory over the devil in the area of temptations which men daily encounter. Hence, Christ was led by the Spirit into the wilderness as a teacher leads His students to classroom demonstration. The Spirit of God that led Christ to the point temptation came to Him did not abandon Him. Holy Spirit will help us remember the scriptures we need to overturn devil's lies and deception at moments of temptation.

After Christ was tempted and He overcome, angels came and ministered to Him. The scriptures documented that great blessings shall come to believers who overcome temptations James 1:12,

2. Crucial life's questions

*"And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?" **Genesis 37:15***

*"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" **Romans 8:13**.*

The three temptations revolve around three important questions which every man must answer in a lifetime and which will determine where we will go in after - life. These are 1. *"What and how do we eat?"* (2) *"What do we want to become and how do we hope to get there?"* (3) *"Whom do we worship and serve in our life time?"* The Bible commenting later on the experience of Christ stated that Christ was by His temptation well positioned to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way as we are but He did not sin. We should therefore approach Him in our moments of temptation and needs, and request for His assistance. He is able and willing to help all who are being tempted Hebrews 4:14-16, 3:18. Christ through His manifold temptations and crucifixion experienced suffering. He is able to help all sufferers and tempted believers.



Jesus promised to identify with us at every stage of life. His experiences while on earth make Him better equipped to help. Experientially the Lord knows what it means to be human. Christ was not only suited and kitted as the greatest human helper by the power of Holy Spirit, He was also equipped for this role by His suffering. He promised believers that He will always be with us; He will never leave or forsake us.



"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Revelation 2:10

Christ's temptation came after God's affirmation of divine connection and relationship God had with Him and the testimony that God was happy and pleased with everything Christ stood for and did. The temptation was presented in such a way that can make Christ doubt God's testimony about this very affirmation and approval of God recorded in the previous chapter.

Ministers and believers must watch and understand the possibility of temptation at the time in our lives and ministry when the ovation is loudest or at the time of a serious need as experienced by Christ. Such temptation might be presented in a way to make us doubt God's testimony about our lives and ministry and His approval of it and of our relationship with God.

3.Divine help and blessedness of victory over Temptations

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" Hebrew 4:15, 16.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" James 1:12

Jesus fasted forty days at the beginning of His ministry and before the temptation. He taught us that fasting is essential for success in Christian life and ministry. Actually He emphasized that there are problems that cannot be solved without fasting and prayer. The fasting of Christ as a model presented to us how to overcome temptation and prepare to succeed in ministry.

Joining fast with our prayers during trials and temptations enhances our spiritual sensitivity, increases our faith and access to divine resources that God provided for our victory.

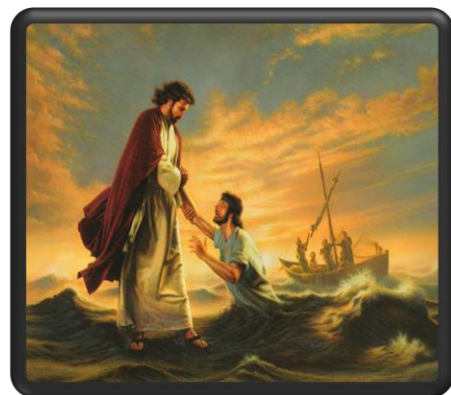
The acute hunger which followed Christ's the forty day's fast was the first focus of devil's temptation. We therefore learn from this that no extent of spiritual exercise or self-denial would immune a man from temptation. We must keep our minds and hearts on Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith at all times especially in our trying moments. We must always remember that temptation is an experience common to all men. Being tempted is never sin, it is yielding to it that is sin. All the temptations were about God's commandments. They were meant to distract Christ from the way of duty and commitment to divine call and purpose. The same thing often happens to believers for the same reason. Jesus overcame, with His help we shall overcome.



After Jesus overcame all the three temptations presented by the devil, angels came and ministered to Him. Like Christ if we resist the devil, he will flee from us James 4:7, if we resist temptation, we shall overcome. Blessings come from God after we have overcome any temptation, God will send men or angels to meet our needs in legitimate ways and we shall be rewarded with eternal life at the end of an earthly life of victory over all temptations James 1:12.



The letters to the churches in Revelation chapters two and three is full of many other temporal and eternal promises for those who overcome, thus signifying that we have much to gain from every victory we obtain over temptation. May God's power and Spirit overshadow all who are in any kind of temptation this day and open to you the door of escape (1Corinthians 10:13), and permanent and lasting victory in Jesus name! - AMEN.



TO DOWNLOAD INSPIRING
SERMONS; BOTH MP3 AND
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ON TO
www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

Richard Baxter was born on November 12, 1615, in Rowton, Shropshire, England. His parents were Richard and Beatrice. Richard, his father, was Baxter's model in spirituality. At the age of fifteen, with the influence of his father, Baxter recognized that books were a great help for his conversion and assurance. He read Richard Sibbes' *"The Bruised Reed and the Smoking Flax"* which was bought by his father from a peddler that gave him an assurance of conversion.

He was ordained into the Church of England in 1638 after studying divinity. He served for nine months in Dudley as a schoolmaster while he also preached on Sundays. Consequently, Baxter went to Bridgnorth as a curate for almost two years. He became the Vicar of Kidderminster's parish in 1641. After fifteen months, civil war broke out and Baxter needed to leave Kidderminster from 1642 through 1646. During these years, Baxter served as a chaplain for some of Oliver Cromwell's forces. He served briefly as a chaplain in the parliamentary army. He maintained a non-conformist position throughout his life; refusing to conform to the Act of Uniformity 1662. He left the Church of England on May 25 of the same year before the Act was fully enforced. He married Margaret Charlton on September 10, the couple only had nineteen wonderful years together; Margaret died in 1681.

After the war, he returned to Kidderminster. People were mad at him for assisting Cromwell's parliament since most people in Kidderminster were royalists. Providentially, Baxter was able to work it out with his parishioners and served for another fourteen years. During his last ministerial years, he helped to bring about the restoration of the king in 1660. When the monarchy was restored, Baxter was appointed as one of King Charles II's chaplains. But, due to the Act of Uniformity 1662 his position was short-lived. He was neither willing nor conscientiously able to obey the act. He left the Church of England and was silenced as part of the ejected ministers. In his silent years, Baxter continued preaching at various churches, one at St. Brides, another church at Milk street, and at Blackfriars. In 1669, he was charged for illegally preaching which led to his imprisonment for six month in

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

RICHARD BAXTER
1615 - 1691



Clerkenwell. After his release in 1672 he was granted a license through the Royal Declaration of Indulgence for non-conformists. Still, during these years, Baxter suffered much persecution and seizures of his possessions. In 1685, James II succeeded Charles II, yet there was a problem, James was a faithful Roman Catholic. This led Baxter to be imprisoned for another eighteen months in the same year.

After his release, he focused on his writing ministry with several preaching appointments. In the Glorious Revolution (1688-89), William and Mary era came which brought the Toleration Act that made him to minister freely until his death in 1691. Baxter called himself a *"mere Christian."* Baxter noted, *"I am a Christian, a mere Christian, of no other religion; and the church that I am of is the Christian church...call me a Catholic Christian," not as Roman Catholic but as part of, "the body of Jesus Christ on Earth."*

He died on December 8, 1691 in London. In his last years, notably, he was an inexhaustible author, writing almost two hundred works while being a prominent preacher. This was evidenced by the multitude of people who attended his funeral, wherein both conformists and non-conformists gave their respect to this great minister.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12

SONG OF THE MONTH

YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

1. Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin;
Each vict'ry will help you some other to win;
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.

*Ask the Savior to help you,
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;
He is willing to aid you,
He will carry you through*

2. Shun evil companions, bad language disdain,
God's name hold in rev'rence, nor take it in vain;
Be thoughtful and earnest, kindhearted and true;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.
3. To him that o'ercometh, God giveth a crown,
Through faith we will conquer, though often cast down;
He who is our Savior, our strength will renew;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.

Author Horatio R. Palmer

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