

His Workmanship at Westside

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

—Ephesians 2:10

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Resist Temptation, by Lance Bowman

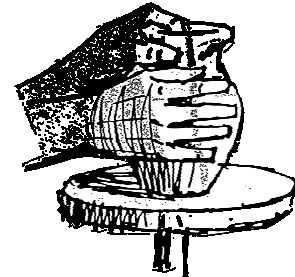
In the midst of His sermon on the mount, Jesus included a lesson on how to pray. He said, “Pray then like this: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*” Mt 6:9-13 ESV. Jesus recognized the importance of man’s dealing with his temptations, and the necessity of having God’s help to do so.

However, all too often we yield to our temptations, and we allow them to develop into sin. The Irish playwright Oscar Wilde said, “*I can resist anything except temptation... The best way to deal with temptation is to yield to it.*” Woefully, what Oscar Wilde expressed often becomes the mantra for most people. Of course, simply giving in to temptation is no way to address the matter, but the question to consider is, “*How can we resist temptation?*” The first step in answering this question is to identify certain factors that may cause us to submit to temptation.

The account of the sins committed by King David provides a good case study, 2 Sam 11. A careful review of the events that led to David committing adultery and murder gives us insight into the reasons he succumbed to his temptations. Notice **three reasons David failed to resist temptation:**

A. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time. “*In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him...but David remained at Jerusalem,*” 2 Sam 11:1. Kings in the days of David had the responsibility of leading their troops into battle. David was not exempt from this responsibility. However, he made the grave mistake of sending his assistant to do his job. David shirked his duty in order to do what he wanted to do, resulting in his being in the wrong place. Quite often we yield to temptation because we find ourselves in the wrong place, as did David. Typically, this is the case because we have not prepared ourselves spiritually. Our plan of resistance must be set in place before we find ourselves in a tempting circumstance or location. Our heart must be set on doing right, and that includes predetermining the right place to be.

B. He took a second glance. David walked on the roof of his house late one afternoon. “*It happened...that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful,*” 2 Sam 11:2. The wording “*happened*” indicates that it was by accident that David saw Bathsheba. At the point when He first noticed her, David had not sinned irrevocably. The problem came when he dwelt upon what he had seen. He took a second glance, and then he sent his messengers to bring Bathsheba to him. Instead of looking away and removing himself from



Isaiah 64:8

seeing the woman, he observed her beauty and began to lust. It is that second glance at something attractive which often leads us to lust. When lust is fully developed in our hearts, we sin, cf. Jas 1:14-15. When David chose not to look away, he set in order a series of actions which eventually led to his committing adultery.

C. He attempted a cover-up. The first sin of fornication resulted in Bathsheba becoming pregnant. When David discovered a child had been conceived as a result of his sin, he called Uriah (Bathsheba’s husband) back to Jerusalem from battle. Once Uriah returned, David tried to convince him to go lie with his wife, in hopes he could pass the child off as Uriah’s and not his own. After all, it would be scandalous and a disgrace if anyone found out the child was David’s. The plan backfired when Uriah refused to go to his wife. Uriah said to David, “*The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing,*” 2 Sam 11:11-12. This really put David in a bind. As the events unfolded, David went further in his cover-up by sending Uriah back to battle, ordering Joab to put him in the front of the hardest fighting where he was sure to be killed. Ultimately, Uriah did perish in battle. David tried to hide the sin of

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Resist Temptation, from p. 1 adultery with a cover-up, which led to another sin and finally the death of Uriah. Often, when we choose to cover up a sin, we are tempted to commit additional sins.

In addition to understanding some factors which can cause us to yield to temptations, we must also **identify things we can do to resist them**. Consider these actions we can take to resist temptation and keep ourselves from falling into sinful behavior:

A. Depend on God's Word. When Jesus was tempted, He used the word of God to overcome sin. Over the span of forty days, Jesus lived in the wilderness, eating nothing. Satan hurled three strong temptations at Jesus at a moment when he was most vulnerable. However, as the devil presented a tempting proposal to Jesus, He resisted by recalling and reciting the commandments of God, Mt 4; Lk 4. It is not insignificant that the Son of God reminded Himself of God's words in a time of great temptation.

David wrote Psalm 51 in response to his sin with Bathsheba. In the midst of his confession, David said, "Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart," Ps 51:6. David recognized God's word as his guide and acknowledged that His commands would lead him to repentance. The apostle Paul said the gospel not only saves us, but it reveals righteousness to us; see Rm 1:16-17. If we follow the gospel, we will be led toward righteousness and away from temptation.

B. Surround yourself with godly influences. After he committed the sins of adultery and murder, David's spiritual condition would have been hopeless had it not been for his good friend Nathan. God sent Nathan to confront David concerning his sins, 2 Sam 12. Nathan told David a story about two men, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had many flocks, whereas the poor man had but one little ewe lamb. The man raised the lamb with his children, and it was like a daughter to him.

One day the rich man had a visitor in his home, and he refused to take one of his own animals to prepare a meal for the guest. Instead, he took the poor man's only lamb and prepared it for the guest. As David listened to the story come to this point, his anger was greatly kindled. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die." Nathan responded, "You are the man!" When David was therefore convicted of his wrongs, he admitted he had sinned against God. In response Nathan said, "The Lord also has put away your sin," 2 Sam 12:1-14. David could have reacted negatively or defensively in response to Nathan's rebuke. Instead, having a heart that was still soft, he responded by acknowledging his sins. It took a friend who was willing to risk losing a friendship, or even punishment, to confront David and save him from the consequence of his wrongdoing. The wise man once said, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens another," Pr 27:17. It is a wise man who will surround himself with people he can trust

"To be able to resist temptation, we must recognize it as a powerful force in Satan's arsenal against us."

to tell him what he needs to hear and not just what he wants to hear.

C. Call on God and lean on His help. Even though David acknowledged his sins, he was not able to get his life back on track without God's help. He prayed to God, "Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit," Ps 51:10-12. You see, David knew he could not overcome temptation and sin without God's help. We continue to succumb to temptation and fall deeper and deeper into sin when we try to live without God's guidance. God is faithful; He knows what we can withstand and will provide a way of escaping our temptations if we accept His help, 1 Cor 10:11-12. However, we must recognize our weaknesses and realize how much we need God's assistance and guidance.

Because Jesus suffered temptation, He can help us in our temptation: "For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted," Heb 2:18; cf. Heb 4:15-16; Mt 22:18 (Mk 12:15; Lk 20:23).

We must recognize our weakness and call on God for help. "Watch and pray, that you do not enter into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak," Mt 26:41 (Mk 14:38; Lk 22:40, 26). We are vulnerable to temptation—it is common to mankind, and Satan has wiles and tricks to deceive us into sin, Eph 6:11; 1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3:13; Gal 6:1-3.

We must never resort to the belief that the best way to deal with temptation is to yield to it. Rather, we must tell ourselves, "I can resist anything, including temptation, with God's help." In order to be able to resist, we must recognize temptation for what it is. It is imperative to understand why we may yield to temptations, to let God's word guide us, to surround ourselves with godly influences, and then to accept God's help to lead us away from them.

***** Watch Your Words

One word that should not be in our prayers or worship is **incredible**. We are believers; therefore, we believe, find credible, the miracles of the Bible and the evidences of God's great power. The events of the crucifixion, for us believers, are not incredible, not something to doubt; they are exceedingly wonderful, magnificent, awesome, powerful, mighty, enormous, great, magnificent, immense, huge, intense, notable, infinite, soaring, sufficient, transcendent, grand, abundant, surpassing, full, noble, profound, extraordinary, fearful, wondrous, unsurpassed, complete, marvelous, astonishing, indescribable, amazing, inexpressible, overwhelming, ineffable, unspeakable, unutterable, majestic.

I challenge you to use Bible words in your prayers, and even to pray the scriptures. Try to use powerful verbs when asking for God's blessings. Work to replace "Help us/me, Lord," with "Heal us, Teach us, Give us, Bless us, Search us," continued on p. 3



Psalm 133:1

God's harvest we'll glean in 2016 "Please let me go to the field and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." —Ruth 2:2

Watch Your Words, from p. 2

Relieve them, Comfort me, Hear us, Look on us, Meet with us, Dwell with us, Be with us, Strengthen them, Save us, Redeem us, Deliver us, Bring us (to, out), Draw us near (draw near to us), Guide me, Show me, Take us as Your own/as Your inheritance, Direct me, Restore me, Forgive me, Show mercy/love/kindness to me, Show me Your ways/truth, Walk with/beside me, Pardon our sins, Go with/before us, Lead us, Do not forsake/leave us/do not lay sin on us, Do not let me wander from You, Consecrate/Sanctify/Cleanse/ Wash us, Preserve us, Hide me, Hide Your Word in my heart, Keep me, Fight for us, Protect me, Remember us, Think of me, Deal kindly with them, Pity us, Drive out our enemies, Delight in us, Open my eyes/heart, Enlighten me, Reprove me, Rebuke me, Encourage/exhort me, Revive me, Remove sin/faults/shame/reproach from me, Answer me, Make me understand/know/do, Enlarge/incline my heart, Dwell with/in us, Rule over us, Turn my eyes away, Establish Your Word to me, Establish our work, Lift us up, Lift the light of Your face upon us, Gather us to You, Accept/Receive us/our worship, Consider me, Plead my cause, Reveal my heart, Send me, Call us by Your name, Examine us, Renew us, Turn us back to You, Glorify Your Name, Work in us, Energize us.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Christian Harrod; Addison Tope; Rocco Jr. Ann Cox; Logan Corray—asthma
Orchid Cox—chronic blood clot condition
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Kirk Johnson—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS
Virginia Menard—macular degeneration
Sandra Perry—diabetes complications; oxygen
Eric Perry—recent pre-diabetes diagnosis
Cheryl Reames—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis
Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis treatment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness
 • from Northgate church:
Pat Johnson's brother—pancreatic cancer

Discipleship Here At Home

School Bans Superheroes, from p. 4

If you know anything about superheroes, the underlying morality is pretty much everything. Supervillains use their powers for evil ends. Superheroes use theirs to protect the vulnerable and uphold the good. They use violence only as a last resort and in self-defense, and they often have other skills worthy of superheroes (Batman's power of deduction, Superman's compassion, Wonder Woman's love of peace). We can use stories to talk to our children about right and wrong. Teaching kids that there's no difference between use of force for good or for evil is the very opposite of moral education.

It reminds me of William F. Buckley's famous retort to those who claimed there was no moral distinction between the United States and the Soviet Union. If you have one man who pushes old ladies in front of oncoming buses, Buckley explained, and you have another man who pushes old ladies out of the way of oncoming buses, it simply will not do to describe them both as the sorts of men who push old ladies around. A country, and a civilization, that actively chooses to render such distinctions meaningless has lost the confidence to sustain itself.

There's an added irony here. Around the time little Laura's school was cracking down on Wonder Woman lunchboxes, two women, Kristen Griest and Shaye Haver, passed the Army Ranger training course for the first time. The news was hailed across the country as a huge step forward for women. Are these women role models or not? Are they heroes? Or should they be condemned for their willingness to use violence when necessary? Maybe Laura should get a Griest and Haver lunchbox and find out.

Rejoice The **Shreves** are expecting their first baby, a girl, in April. The **Addys** are expecting their third child, a boy, in May. **Micaiah Fink** has been nominated for the Mayors' & Commissioners' Award, Clear Crk **Bereaved Lloyd Menard** passed away yesterday afternoon, services pending. Please pray for **Virginia** and family during this loss.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Samantha Harrod**—cyst removed from her back last week; 2-month recovery
- the **Boyd's** extended families are undergoing hardships: **Wendy's** father, **Dan Gutierrez**, is in hospital and unable to walk; **Kenny's** sister and brother-in-law are divorcing, some cult activity, so pray for **Jennifer, Kevin, Chloe, and Elijah Whittemore**.
- **Linda Szymanski**—broken arm & wrist
- **Jordan Corray's** father, **Glen Kowalski**—home after ICU for diabetic complications
- **Judy Strand's** daughter **Shawntiel**—recently broke leg on ice, had surgery to insert pin
- **River and Forest Cox's** great grandmother **Martha Rowe**—in rehab after diabetic coma for knee strengthening
- **Kory Tope's** uncle **Skeeter Schulz**—broke hip
- **Brittany Tope's** mother **Gayle**—biopsy of spot on liver shows breast cancer has spread; **Brittany's** grandmother—on dialysis
- several among us are suffering flu, colds, viruses, and breathing difficulty
- **Judy Sartin's** friend **George Vernon**—stage 4 esophageal cancer
- **Kim Howell's** coworker **Rachel Daniels**—recently had baby, **Titus**, with genetic disease
- **Jordan Corray's** colleague and mentor **Craig Smith**—in ICU with brain injury after fall from roof; friend **Kylie Cabalka**—staph infection complications; out of ICU to rehab and making progress
- **Sarah McMurray's** mentee **Lakesha Griffin**—age 12; moving to Sarah's house today
- **Connor Boyd's** friend **Christian Lyons**, high school freshman—leukemia
- **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer
- **Andrea Songer Greer**, daughter of **Bill and Debbie S.**—chemo for stage I breast cancer
- **Judy Strand**—finished with chemo for liver transplant; testing in prep for transplant in April or May
- **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
- **Ernesto Gonzalez's** father **Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma; to rehab center to gain strength
- **Ian Anderson, Mina Gonzalez's** nephew—rehab
- **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, diagnosed with neuro-muscular disease
- **Bill Dennis**—improving
- **Larry Campbell's** FL partner **Terry Hargadine's** wife **Michelle**—difficult recovery from mastectomy; **Terry**—recovering from knee replacement surgery
- **Kayla Knighten, Christine Adams's** daughter, needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**; pray **Ed's** son **Rodney Schulz** and **Sheryle's** daughter **Tiffany** receive the gospel; **Ed's** daughter find God and prayer
- **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; **Brett's** grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Connie Doss**—cancer returned
- **Noah Hadders's** teacher **Sharolyn Elmore**—chemo for breast cancer

Travel The **McClellans** are in Austin, TX, this weekend.



Exposing current trends *moral equivalency*

School Bans Superhero Lunchbox, by Jonah Goldberg

At the beginning of this school year a little girl named Laura was sent home with a note because she had brought a Wonder Woman lunchbox to school. In the letter addressed to Laura's parents, the school explained: "The dress code we have established requests that the children not bring violent images into the building in any fashion—on their clothing (including shoes and socks), backpacks, and lunchboxes. We have defined 'violent characters' as those who solve problems using violence. Superheroes certainly fall into that category."

That's true. You know who else falls into that category? George Washington and all the Founding Fathers. It also includes Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and every other U.S. president, including Barack Obama. (He solved the problem of Osama bin Laden with SEAL Team Six.) One needn't get too provocative, but the Hebrew and Muslim prophets and even Jesus saw violence as a solution to at least some problems—just ask the money-changers in the temple.

The offending lunchbox has a picture of Wonder Woman's face on one side, and a full-body picture of her flying on the other with words extolling her beauty and wisdom—two very non-violent qualities. What's more, she's holding her Lasso of Truth, which she never uses as a weapon.

I have no idea if the school in question has a security guard or police officer on the premises, but I am sure that the parents would very much like someone equipped to solve some violent problems with violence should the need arise. That's because violence is a tool. In the moral sense it's neither a good tool nor a bad tool. Surgery to save a life is laudable. Surgery to inflict pain is torture. A hammer can smash in someone's skull, or it can build a house. To say that all kinds of violence are equally bad isn't high-minded morality; it is amoral nihilism wrapped in a kind of gauzy, brain-dead sanctimony.

Barely two weeks ago, three American passengers—two of them servicemen—heard gunfire on their train from Amsterdam to Paris. When everyone else was running from the would-be mass murderer, they ran toward danger. They didn't ask the alleged terrorist, a Moroccan named Ayoub El-Khazzani, what his grievances were or try to debate the finer points of Islamic law. They used force to subdue him. They don't have Wonder Woman's powers, which makes them more, not less, heroic.

Last July on a train in Washington, DC—the day we Americans celebrate our collective decision to use violence to solve the problem of British tyranny—24-year-old Kevin Joseph Sutherland was brutally slaughtered. The killer punched, kicked, stomped, and ultimately stabbed Sutherland 30 to 40 times. Almost a dozen passengers watched the 125-pound assailant while doing absolutely nothing.

We needn't second-guess their decision too harshly at least to concede the obvious fact that the onlookers were in no way heroes.

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Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, studies on the attributes of God: "Show Me Your Glory," Jim Reingrover
- **sermon**, "Preaching through First Corinthians, (PTFC): Chapter 7, To Marry or Not to Marry," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **sermon**, "The House in the Rock," Merrit Zollars

Wednesday night study:

The Thessalonian Letters

Sing and learn new songs at Mina Gonzalez's at 5 pm, today, March 6.