

8-30-26 Message Temptation

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Faithfulness of God, temptation, sin, grace, Holy Spirit, Scripture, escape, pride, flesh, lust, endurance, prayer, community, redemption, trials.

SPEAKERS

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So last week we started this talking about the faithfulness of God. Just period. Let's let's walk this through a little bit. The fact that God is faithful, and He's faithful because He is trustworthy and He is truth. Right. That was the main point that we were talking about last week, and so we've looked at how he is faithful to us in this life. But sometimes we get it mixed up a little bit because we're looking at promises that were made to different people at different times and saying, "God, you weren't faithful to me today. So it's important that even the faithfulness of God is rightly divided because some things were specifically made to people in a specific land, a specific time period. But then there are other things about God, you know, that He cannot leave us nor forsake us, and that that once we are saved, He has sealed us until the day of redemption, right? And that there is nothing in this life that we are doing alone, as that song was just talking about. Right, I love how the Apostle Paul when he says, "Even when everybody else forsook me, nevertheless the Lord stood with me. Well, that's a faithful God. We can trust Him because He is truth, and so it's a good reminder, I think, to step back and be able to say, not so much. Well, I wouldn't make so much of us and our faithfulness, but stepping back and saying, God, you are faithful. That's what's holding us together-the faithfulness of God and what He says and what He does, how he how he responds to our unfaithfulness even shows the faithfulness of God right by the way His grace is extended even in our greatest fears and our greatest weaknesses and our greatest failures. So this week we're going to talk about temptation. I'm reminded of a mentor of mine who has now went home to be with the Lord, but Woody Church. I don't know how many of you guys knew Woody around this area. I mean, he was very influential in so many people's lives. But he had given me a small booklet one time by Jay Adams, and it was all about First Corinthians 10:13, and he had me memorize First Corinthians 10:13. I think it was one of the first verses that I committed to memory. I think Romans 8:28 was like the first one. John 3:16. I think that I pretty much knew that at an early age. But but really, First Corinthians 10:13. That was that's a big verse. I'm gonna put that up on the screen. But this thing is a lot of words, right? And it talks about there hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man. But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape that ye may be able to bear it. Woody, I'd make you proud. I still know it. That's a little side point, right? I think that probably if you send your kids to Awana, they're going to know a lot more of those verses as well, right? They're going to have that in their mind and in their hearts, and it's going to be so important. That verse has saved me so many times. And when we think about this word temptation, and it really comes from the Greek pyrosomos, and it really can be translated either trial or temptation. So luckily, we don't have to really investigate it much because the the Bible has done a really good job of that, but you can tell the context kind of tells you whether or not this is just kind of

a trial from God or whether this is a temptation to sin, because there's a difference between the temptations and trials as they work like this, and a lot of it is attributed to what does God do, what can God do in His character, right? And I think that's an important thing as we start looking through here. But part of this definition says a trial proving the trial made of you by my bodily condition. It's the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy, and then there's this piece of it here, the second part of the definition, an internal temptation to sin. Part of this talks about rebellion against God, by which His power and justice are, as it were, put to the proof and challenged to show themselves. So specifically today, when we talk about the faithfulness of God in temptation, and I'm talking about that temptation to sin, God's faithfulness in that. Well, we were looking at in First Corinthians 10:13. It's pretty clear from the beginning of this chapter, in chapter 10, he's talking about the wilderness temptation. He's talking about being baptized into Christ, and which you know, obviously, we've talked about that just a few weeks ago, and then he's the very next verse in verse 14. He's going to talk about idolatry. So it is clear that this is a temptation to sin when you're looking at this. And so as we do this today, I'm hoping that we can kind of do this some justice. But I think we need to create a little bit of groundwork first. And the first thing here, when you think. About this idea of being tempted to sin, what really happens? What is the goal? Let's describe it a little bit here. I think the first thing we need to address is it's not of God. James 1:13, and we're going to kind of tiptoe around before and after in this verse in James, but James 1:13 says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted of God. For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man. You know, there's just so many times it's like I don't know why God keeps doing this to me. I'm like a lot of times it's our choices that are putting me in this position, and we're attributing this to God. God cannot tempt us with evil, and I think that should encourage us a little bit today, right? In Ephesians 6:11 and 14, really here is the whole thing about temptation. It is designed to make you fall. That's really to fall into sin. That is the whole idea of temptation. Since it's not of God, is to make you fall. Think about this in Ephesians 6:11 through 14. How many times or iterations of the word "stand" are used in just four short verses? Put on the whole armor of God in verse 11, that you may be able to stand. What are we standing against? The wiles of the devil, he says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, blood, but against principalities, powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Now listen to what he says here: Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand, stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. There is an entity, a real devil, a real Satan out there who wants you to fall. And when you're thinking about this idea of temptation, it is to make you fall. That really is what's going on here. Now, a couple other things to think about with this is as a result of knowing can't be from God. It's Satan who's trying to do this, but then there's kind of this element of us that kind of gets in the way as well, because in Romans 12:3, Paul says, "I say through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Or in Galatians 6:1, brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself. And then just two verses later, he says, For if a man think himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. So I want to develop a couple of points before we talk about the game plan when it comes to temptation. And the first point is this: you absolutely can fall. It is important for you to know that. There are so many people be like, "I would never do that. You absolutely can do that. I would never blow up my life like that. You absolutely can blow up your life like that. I would never do what that person has done. You absolutely could get yourself in a position in this life where you do that very thing. It is your pride that will be your undoing. The first thing to understand when it comes to temptation, you absolutely can fall. When we think about, there's this hedge of protection around me, and we get this idea, kind of that we can go and do whatever we're going to do, and God's going to keep us from blowing it. And that's false. If you really want to step over the Holy Spirit. You really want to wreck your life? You can do it. You're going to reap the consequences, but you absolutely can do it. When you get saved, you have the Holy

Spirit inside you, but you don't have an invisible force field on the outside that just keeps you from every wrong thing. If so, if that were true, then why would we have so much exhortation in Scripture about making choices and making wise decisions? What would be the point of anything like that? So I think the first thing you have to understand, and this comes from a heart of humility, you absolutely can fall. There's a second point to this, though. Mentally, your pride could do your undoing, and Paul consistently reminds us of this. The Bible really teaches from the first all the way to the last about this idea of pride and the destruction that comes. But there's another piece of this, and it is your flesh. If we go back to James. He says, "All right, God's not the one who tempts you with evil. But then he goes on to talk about what this process looks like, and he says, "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. He said, "This isn't God, but every man is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed on his own lust, and it says, "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin. Now, I know that any day now I'm going to be a grandfather, and when she conceives, she's going to bring this little baby girl into the world that's going to steal my heart and all my money. I realize this, but what this is talking about is when a man gets enticed, when he's drawn away by his own lust. There is a conception that happens, and once this lust has brewed and this conception has happened, it will bring forth something, and that is sin. And sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. It gives the idea of basically of a labor and delivery illustration. This is what sin does, and it starts out right away saying it's not of God who cannot tempt you with evil. It says, "But you are enticed when you are drawn away of your own lust, and then becomes that conception that bringing forth sin and that sin bringing forth death. Now, Galatians 5:16 through 17 it says it this way, it kind of describes a little bit of this battle as well. It says, "This I say then, walk in the spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. These two things that exist today are flesh and our spirit. It says this about these. It says, "Walk in the spirit, you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh, for the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh. These are contrary, the one to the other. So you cannot do the things that ye would. So if pride says you absolutely can fall, the flesh is saying that you absolutely will fall. If you walk in the flesh, you absolutely will fall. And then there's that long list of what the flesh produces. Later in the chapter, there is a list of what the spirit produces in you. So it starts out. We start dealing with this idea of this temptation, specifically this temptation of sin. It takes a real humility of understanding you can fall, you absolutely can fall. The things you judge on the algorithm, the the videos, the clips, the things that you were like, I'm so much different than them. I must warn you that there was in in the Gospels an instance where there is a publican who is crying out to God? He says, "Be merciful to me, a sinner. And there's a Pharisee who's standing up, and he's like, "God, I thank you that I'm not like that person. And Jesus addresses this, and he talks about which one of these. It was the humble one who was broken on his face before the Lord, it was that one who was going to get the mercy, not the one who was full of pride, saying, "I'm glad I would never. Now you should strive to not sin. You should strive not to do it. But I'm telling you, you are only a couple decisions away from being face down in the mud. It does not take much. You have to realize you absolutely can fall because Satan isn't taking a vacation. He's waiting for you to let your guard down, and then your flesh, it wants to be in control. And when your flesh is in control and not your spirit, it will lead you to destruction. You absolutely can fall, and you absolutely will fall if you are led by the flesh. It's important to know that. Yes, we're going to talk about God's faithfulness, but you need some facts. You need some realism this morning. But the game plan is this: How does it tie in with the whole your pride and the flesh working in tandem? And this is where the enemy comes in. This game plan's been here since the very beginning. It's not unique. It's found in First John 2:15 through 17, and this is where John is saying, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. But here it is: all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, and then he says, "It's not of the Father, but it is of the world. And the very next verse is going to say, "But the world's going to pass away. Saint Corinthians 2:11 says, "Lest Satan should get advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of." His devices. If we want to talk about defeating temptation in our life, we have to realize we are capable of falling. If we walk in the flesh, we will fall. And then there's an enemy who has these devices that we absolutely cannot

be ignorant of, because the enemy is trying to appeal to the flesh. He wants to awaken it. He wants to strengthen it. He wants to give it what it naturally already wants, and it's going to run in direct opposition against the spirit. And let's test these three things. There's at least two places in Scripture where we know for a fact that this game plan was just laid right out. Those three things: lust of the eyes, we go back to the garden. Think about this in Genesis three six. What was it that Eve said? She saw that the tree was good, pleasant to the eyes. This was the pride. This is still here with the lust of the eyes, I already messed this up already. Good job, Dal. Good job. Way to go. All right. So this is here, the lust of the eyes. So lust of the eyes. There. Now, I just want to say something about this for all the ladies in the room. Eve had a perfect man, and she had a perfect environment. The perfect guy apparently won't fix you, and vice versa. It is amazing how we are looking to another human being to fix this. This is an example where you have the perfect spouse in the perfect environment, and you still were deceived. This is why it's so important for you to have that personal growth, that personal relationship, and not to be dependent upon another person taking you someplace spiritually. And it's so good when you have somebody who is your teammate and your partner alongside that, but there is no perfect spouse, and even if there was, you can still fall. How about that? All right, the second one. If that was an example, there. Well, actually, we talk about the lust of the eyes. You see this even with the wilderness temptation with Jesus. Remember in Matthew four, five, and six, this is Satan saying, "I will give you all the kingdoms, you if you will worship me. Who's showing him this, right? Lust of the eyes, same game plan. Here's when we think about the eyes. I want to just show you, share with you a couple things I found this week. First one is the American Academy of Sleep Medicine reported, and it's been a few years in 2019, that 88% of people lose sleep because of binge watching TV shows. It got quiet. 88% So I'm just wondering, who are the 12% that are innocent in this room who aren't convicted? Terry Rouse, like me, me, it's me. Okay, so this was back in 2019, but this is why this is important. Your you need to recharge your body from a health standpoint for you to think clearly, right? You need enough sleep, but 88% of people lose sleep because of binge watching television shows. Let's talk about pornography. There are actual peak hours, and listen to where these hours are. The global data, the global data analytics show that popular viewing times of pornographies, it's heavily in the late evening, running from 9p.m. to midnight, with specific keyword searches for adult content spiking further in the night between midnight and 2p.m. So we are putting before our eyes binge watching shows when we should be sleeping. We are struggling in this area of our flesh, in the area of pornography, because we should be sleeping. Think about this: we are most vulnerable when we are tired and hungry. And do you think the enemy knows that? Did you understand what I just said? And yet, the majority of people who are just night owls they end up getting themselves into trouble a lot of times. Now, hopefully, you're one of those that well, I use that time to binge watch the Bible, or maybe some old school Les Feldick or something. I'm not saying it's the rule for everybody, but I am saying that the statistics do show and bear out that when, as far as the things we put before our eyes matter, especially in how we feel, like when we are tired, when we are wore out and we're still putting images before our eyes and it is the wrong images, there is going to be an effect. It matters what we put before our eyes. Be careful, little eyes, what you see. And the second one was lust of the flesh, Genesis three six. They said it was a tree to. Desired, Matthew four verses three through four. It was if we could make these stones become bread, and then you could eat. Same game plan, right? Lust of the flesh, and we deal with that a lot today. And a lot of this comes from this whole idea of comparison, which is the thief of joy, right? It's like we have to. We see somebody else has something. Somebody on on on TikTok? They they either have the body that that we want. They have the followers that we want. They have the content. They've got the audience that we want. We lust. We want what they have. Anybody trekking with me today? Boy, contentment is a long lost art. We struggle with being satisfied with what we have because constantly in front of our eyes are things that we see that are putting things in our heart that we want, we desire. We think this will make us happy because this person on this video seems to be happy. The beach will solve our problems. Look at them; they're happy in their bikini with scripture verses, I don't get it. The third one is the pride of life. Genesis three six. It'll make one

wise to be like gods. Matthew four five and six. He takes to the pinnacle of the temple and he says, "If you be cast down, the angels, the angels would keep you from dying. These temptations are the same game plan, and even for us today, it is the pride of life, lust of the eyes and lust of the flesh. It is what will destroy us, and yet we're told in Scripture these things are temporary. They are of the world. We cannot be ignorant of Satan's devices. How he's going to come at us? We can't put ourselves where our flesh is continually stronger than our spirit. We're investing everything we have into the flesh and nothing at all in the spirit, and then we wonder why we keep falling. The main source of our undoing is ourselves, and Satan knows that he appeals to the flesh. He's like, I can just sit back and watch mankind destroy themselves. I know what carrot to dangle. I know what the flesh wants. So we go back to First Corinthians 10:13, talk about the faithfulness of God in this area. So it starts out by saying, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man. So the first thing I want to talk about when it comes going back to this verse is whatever you're being tempted with is not unique. It says that it is common to man, and sometimes we feel that way. It's like I'm the only one tempted in this area. I promise you, you are not. Technology may look different today, but it's still being the same thing that you're tempted with. It's still pulling on your flesh, and what Paul is saying here is quite a bit of time removed from the wilderness temptation, which is the example in the passage. And yet he's telling these people had nothing to do with the wilderness that there is no temptation taking but such as is common to man. And I think it's a good place to start to realize that that it is not unique to you, and sometimes it does today. Like when the minority feels like they are the only ones tempted with gender ideology, right, and that these small percentages of people seem to impact the masses, but the reality is there's never just one because there's never just one temptation. You're never just the only person who's been tempted with something. In fact, we're even told in Hebrews 4:15 it says, "We have not a 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, and you could say that because you could look at the wilderness temptation, and you could see the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, right, and the lust of the flesh. But the very next part of this verse says God is faithful. No temptations taken you, but such as is the common of man. But God is faithful. Do you believe that today? Whatever it is in your life, whatever you've brought to church today, whatever that temptation is, whether that is a substance abuse, whether it is pornography viewing, whether you are on the right on the teeter line of committing adultery, whatever the temptation is in your life. Do you believe that God is faithful? Because He is. Because He goes on and says, God is. Faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape that ye may be able to bear it. So let's just stop at this next portion here. Will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, and I think this actually gets misused quite a bit because it gives the idea that that there are different levels in which God is faithful, depending on your strength and what you can handle, and when you test that against Scripture, it doesn't really line up. And some people say, "Well, God puts His you know toughest battles against his toughest soldiers and things like that and so I'm like we don't really see that scripture supports that we're stuck with this statement here trying to understand it collectively with what the Bible teaches about God in this area and here's what I can tell you is that God is faithful absolutely but when it says He will not suffer you to be tempted above that you're able, He's not saying that you can just walk around and say, "Okay, God, I'm willing, I'm I'm ready, I'm ready for the temptation to end. I'm now walking into the strip club. Hey, God, I'm here. Still haven't stopped me, huh? Okay, I guess I'm able to do this. I must be strong enough. I'm now taking a seat. I'm pulling the wallet out. I'm rolling the dollar bills, right? And we're waiting for God to say, "Oh no, time out, stop. You're done. That's not going to happen. We walk in this life thinking, "Well, I guess that I can endure this because God is allowing me to still go through this. And we're talking about this temptation to sin specifically today. See where God's faithfulness comes in is the fact that God says, "I've given you everything needed to escape this and to endure this, but I can choose not to take the way of escape. I can choose to give in and not endure. That has no bearing on God's faithfulness. You bear responsibility to live a holy life and make wise decisions. You do, or there would be no reason for the instruction of how to make wise decisions in Scripture.

And I know I know this from personal experience. I know in my biggest failures, I could look back and I was like, there was so many exit ramps, and I took none of them because I knew better, and I would never do that, and I would never fall in that way. And guess what? I was wrong, but that was not because God wasn't faithful. Whether it be people saying, "Hey, brother, you need to watch out. This isn't safe. This isn't wise, right? Whether it was the Word of God giving me instruction that all I had to do was believe and all I had to do was do what was in the Word of God, and I didn't. God was faithful. It was me who was unfaithful, and when we start thinking about the area of temptation, we bear some responsibility, and it's not because God is faithful when, or God isn't faithful when we fall, and He says, "I'll make a way of escape that you may be able to endure. That's the other part, the endurance part. People think the way of escape is just gets us totally away from it. But the last part of this says endure. Let's talk about the way of escape. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord God, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Now let's just test this a little bit. Did Eve have a way of escape? Yes. She didn't have to film a documentary about talking to animals. God told her what to do. All she had to do was obey. Was obedience an escape for Eve? Absolutely, it was. What about David? Did David have a choice? He's up and he sees Bathsheba over there. Was there a way of escape for David? There absolutely was, but David didn't want a way of escape. David saw. David lusted, and he would eventually commit murder and cover up. It would cost him a son. It would really cost him most of the family troubles he was going to have. But there was a way of escape. It wasn't because God wasn't faithful in any of that. We're even told in First Corinthians seven five, defraud ye not the other except it be with consent for a time. This is talking about sex inside the marriage. You may give yourselves to fasting and prayer and come together again that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. So what is the escape here? Have sex if you're married, except it be with consent for a time for fasting and prayer. In fact, I'm going to allow all the married couples now to be dismissed early so that they. Yeah, the men got excited and the women got sad, but there is an escape there. It's like we wonder, like, how did I find myself into this trap? You know, even some of the premarital counseling that we warn about this from, and then we're on the backside when we're doing marital counseling, and we say, okay, we're having all these problems in our marriage, and then we start talking about this area of incontinency. Really, we talk about sex inside a marriage, but really, the reason they're talking to us about is incontinency. And you find out they haven't had they haven't had sex in six months, and you see what that has caused. Right? Scripture clearly says here that Satan's looking for an opportunity, even inside the marriage, to get in. One of the ways he does that is if you're physically able. Now there's some that are not, so I want to make sure that I'm not offending anybody here today. But if you are physically able, then this is something that Satan's looking for an opportunity to get in and tempt you inside your marriage. You can find a way of escape by not letting him in in this direction. Does this make sense? I'm trying to give these examples here. Let's talk about kind of some real practical things. What are some of these ways of escape that exist? And I think let's just walk through this. Right. The first one is go to bed earlier. I know that that sounds really simplistic. Like you came here today to really be challenged, and I'm up here saying go to bed earlier, and you're like, that's the profound thing that I'm going to go home with today. But I'm telling you, there is value in that. If you are struggling in a certain temptation, and that temptation seems to always be hitting you at night, late at night, when you should be asleep, then go to bed earlier. That's a way of escape. God's not making you stay up later, so you can go to bed earlier. You can put the phone away earlier. You can choose to only look at the phone when you're in the presence of other people, as a way of protection. If that is something that you're struggling with, you can change what you watch here and where you go. Those are your choices. Those are escapes. Quit going to the bars. You're struggling in that area, right? Quit watching what you're watching, if it is affecting you and pulling you away from God, appealing to your flesh and causing you to destroy the things around you, you have a choice. Maybe it's the people that you are with, the people that you are close with. There have been people in my life that I loved dearly, but it was not good for me to be close to them, and it caused major destruction in my life. And one, some of the best things that Rachel and I ever did is we

just decided to pretty much cut off everybody else from our lives. And there was a season where it was just like me and her. It was the best thing we could have done at that point. Another thing is when you find yourself in heavy temptation, and this is something that I learned years ago, and this is something that I apply to my life. Use that time to serve other people because temptation is all about you. If there's something going on in my mind, if there's something that I'm like I don't like remembering this, I don't like this thought that comes in. There'll be times I'll be like, "All right, my wife, where are the areas she struggles with? How can I serve her right now? And so that might be doing the dishes. It's amazing when you're praying and you're busy serving other people that all of a sudden that thing that you were tempted with starts to fade away because you're taking the focus off of you. We're told in Philippians chapter two, right to to consider others more significant than ourselves. Look not only to our interests but also to the interest of other people. Another thing you could do is go for a walk. Get out and move. Sometimes we just sit, and the flesh doesn't want to get up. Let's be honest. One of the best things you could do if you're like, man, I don't know why these things keep going on in my mind right now. I'm really struggling. You know what? I'm gonna I'm gonna go for a walk and I'm gonna pray to God and I'm gonna talk to God, but break the trance. Get up, do something. Or maybe you got so much pent up inside you. Maybe it's a temptation to sin in the area of anger. Then get up and work out. Put that energy towards something different. Chop some wood. It's almost that time of year, right? We're getting there. Maybe it's a matter of a way of escape. Is you looking for a different job? If this job is. Is the crazy part for you? That's the most tempting part. It's that receptionist that won't leave you alone, and you feel this tug where you have a you basically have a work wife and you've got a home wife, and you feel a pull both ways. Get a different job. That's an escape. Move to a different department. Maybe you need to delete social media if the temptation comes for you to live in fear all the time, or to live in comparison. Maybe you just give yourself a a season of no social media. That's an escape. These are practical tools, and if it's a stronghold that you keep falling in, then maybe you need help. There's biblical counseling. There are mentors that can help you. If this isn't just something that has happened once or twice, but it is a stronghold, and you've created a neural pathway. You you are struggling with this same thing over and over again. Then you can humble yourself and get help. There are people who can help you. All of these are ways of escape that you may be able to endure a temptation. And I will end this by saying this as we wrap this up last couple minutes here. But God is faithful, and think about this. Think about what He's given us. He's given us His Word. How helpful is that in the matter of temptation? I mean, I think you could probably eliminate a lot of the temptation in your life, if you just read and if you just read, abstain from all appearance of evil, because there are stuff that is flat evil that you are constantly putting in front of you and that's causing you to stumble. But God has given you His Word. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. We sometimes just want to sit and we want to think through something enough to try to find the solution instead of praying and getting in the Word of God. God is faithful; He's given us this Word, and it has the answers for everything that we are going through. The other thing is God is faithful; He has given you His Holy Spirit. You have the Spirit inside you. When I read so many places in Scripture when they did not have the indwelling Holy Spirit. I mean, today we have to physically walk over the Holy Spirit to sin. We've got that. We've got that alarm system inside of us, bringing Scripture back into our mind. God says, "I'm faithful. I've given you my completed Word. I've given you the Holy Spirit, and guess what? I've also given you other people, other people in the faith, other people to help you stand, other people to restore, other people to pray for you. But we want to be like Elijah, and we want to think we're the only one, and we find ourselves depressed sitting under a juniper tree, not wanting to live any longer, and God's reminding us, like He reminded Him, "You're not alone. That's why the church body is so important. The body of Christ being plugged in is so important. And then, lastly, God has given you prayer. He has given you. God is faithful. He's giving you prayer. He's given you direct access, not through another person. Direct access in this dispensation to himself. He says, "You can talk to me about this. I'm talking back through the Word of God and through the Holy Spirit living inside of you, and I have given you people around you that are great resources that can help you to stand. I say all that to say

this, even though God is faithful, giving you all of this, God did not make you a robot. Galatians six seven through nine says, "Be not deceived. God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. He that soweth to the spirit shall of the Spirit, reap life everlasting. Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. You can't just say God's got this and not put in any work at all. Satan's looking for that; he absolutely is, and let's not also forget that even in this dispensation of grace, he does not want any of his children to live in sin. Sometimes we're afraid to say that because you're a grace church, right? But we're reminded over and over again, even in Paul's writings, Romans 6:12. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in the lust thereof. We have the age old question at the beginning of Romans six one, and this is kind of coming on the tail end of hey, where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. But he says, what shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid! How shall we that are dead in sin live any longer therein? Or in Titus 2:11, speaking of grace, the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteous. And godly in this present world. This is why this area of temptation matters. It affects our ability to be ambassadors given the ministry of reconciliation when we live in habitual sin. Nobody wants to hear what you have to say if you live in glorified sin. We should live lives to show them that there's a different path. We're told in Colossians 3:12, Ephesians one four, to be holy and blameless, to be presented that way. Our holiness matters. But I want to give you a little grace as we leave. As I just said a minute ago, where sin abounded in Romans 5:20, grace did much more abound. So even if you've walked in and you've fallen, even if you've been wounded, even if you've fallen into temptation, God's grace is greater than that. And if you will submit yourselves to God. Get in the Word of God. Get back up. I promise you, it may take a day. It may take a month. It may take you several years in some instances. But God wants to restore you. He wants to put it back together. He doesn't want to say, "Ah, you gave in a temptation. I warned you. Ha ha ha. No, that's not it. God says, "I want you to be a trophy of grace. I want you to get up and not walk in that sin any longer. I want to restore you and put you together so that I can show others what I can do, and show that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. But at some point, you have to say, "I'm done doing this. Whatever it takes, whatever help I need to get, whatever things escapes I need to put in place. You can't just continue to live in sin. God says He wants us to be holy and righteous. So today, I might have been talking to myself more than anybody. Right? Sometimes I'm reminded more about what God has done to put me in the position I'm in today. Maybe more so than ever thinking about any of you all and what you're going through in your life. It's not like God says, "Hey, put this in your mind because so and so needs to hear this this week. I shouldn't use the pulpit for that, first of all. But but what I'm saying is that I'm talking to myself as much as anybody. I know I can fall, and I know what it takes for me to fall, and that I will fall if I walk in the flesh. I'm hoping that this encourages you today to say, you know what, I'm going to trust in God's faithfulness and what He has provided, so that I can look for the escapes and be able to endure temptation. God has given me His Word. He's given me the Holy Spirit. He's given me other people, and He's given me prayer. God is faithful. He has given you the tools, and in the practical things that I talked about today, there is always an escape. But you got to take the off ramp. I'm going to have everybody stand at this time. We're going to pray, and during this time, while we pray and we have everybody bow their heads, if this is a time where you want to come forward, you want to talk about church membership, you've been saved recently, and you want to talk about what the next steps are. How do I grow in my faith? We'll have a couple of workers up front, but we'd love to invite you if you want to help with Awana or small groups or something like that. You just have questions. We want to give you the opportunity to do that. You can even slip out while we're praying here in a moment, but we'd like to invite you at this time as well. Let's go ahead and pray, and then we will sing and dismiss. Heavenly Father, I thank you for this day. I thank you for your faithfulness in this area of temptation, specifically this temptation to sin. Next week we're going to talk about suffering, Lord, and how faithful you are in the area of suffering. Lord, you have made a way of escape for us to be able to endure when it comes to temptation, we

just have to take it. Wow, you've given us this completed Word of God. You've put the Holy Spirit inside of us the very moment that we have placed our faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we've received that free gift, you've sealed us till the day of redemption. Lord, you've given us other people who come alongside. I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for certain people in my life that that you put in my way when I needed them the most, and that when I was so desperate to get back up because I didn't want to keep falling in temptation, Lord, that they were patient with me, that they would pray for me, that they would pick up. Lord, other people are so important. You didn't mean for us to be alone, and Lord, I'm so thankful that we have you to talk to and you to pray to. Especially, what a great response when I'm tempted to pray to you instead, instead of giving you that temptation. The temptation itself is. Is not a sin. It's what we do with it. Lord, I pray you be with the people, encourage them this week, encourage them to invite somebody to want to come next week. As maybe somebody's been going through something very difficult in their lives, or feel like they are just in a state of suffering over and over again, or maybe they're being persecuted for their faith and they they hate how they're being bullied on social media about their faith, Lord. Whatever the situation might be, Lord, that they would come next week and that they be encouraged that you are faithful in the area of our suffering, Lord. I pray you just be with the people now. Help us as we move forward, Lord. We want to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth because that is your will. We love you and praise you in Jesus' name. Amen. We hope you received a blessing from today's service. We would love to have you visit with us in person. For more information, please visit our website at gpendie.net or contact us by phone at 317-535-3512. For more options to watch, just click on demand on the website. Until next broadcast, may God bless you. Is our prayer. We hope you received a blessing from today's service. We would love to have you visit with us in person. For more information, please visit our website at gpendie.net or contact us by phone at 317-535-3512. For more options to watch, just click on demand on the website. Until next broadcast, may God bless you. Is our prayer.