

# Inspirational Nuggets

(Archived posts from [www.discipleshipcenter.org](http://www.discipleshipcenter.org))

## **TEMPTATION:**

Let's turn our attention to the concept of superior weapons, as we consider defeating **temptation**:

*If you have weapons that are superior to the weapons of your enemy, you can win a lot of battles.* Former president Dwight Eisenhower, when he was Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe during World War II, stated that there were four weapons that were most instrumental in helping the U.S. win World War II - the atomic bomb, the jeep, the Skytrain multipurpose aircraft, and the bazooka. *Superior weapons made all the difference in bringing about victory over America's enemies.*

The Bible makes it clear that there is an enemy, the devil, who has declared spiritual warfare against Christians. You can read all about this enemy in Ephesians 6:11-12. Do Christians like you and me have any superior weapons that would bring us victory in our struggle against the devilish weapon of temptation? *Ephesians 6:17 tells us that we have a weapon called "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

When we are attacked by temptation, our use of the Bible, the word of God, can bring us the victory we need. Simply thrust your selected Bible verse(s) into the temptation by quoting the verse(s), and trust that the Holy Spirit will mortally wound that particular temptation.

Need some proven battle swords? Try *Matthew 4:4, 7, or 10: or I Corinthians 10:13; or James 4:7-8a.*

**Have you learned to live by His Sword?**

## **SIN and TEMPTATION:**

Back in my younger days, some friends of mine and I went out for pizza. During the meal, conversation headed in the direction of things we wish we had not done in our past. One of my friends admitted that he had tried marijuana when he was younger. He knew he was breaking a law set by his parents, but went ahead and tried the drug anyway. His parents eventually found out about this. What caused my friend to never want to do drugs again was the reaction of his parents - he saw that they were heartbroken, and cried over what my friend had done.

Often, when we think about the possibility of sinning, we may concern ourselves with breaking a law of God. We may even think a bit farther ahead, and wonder what disciplinary action God would take if we did give in to temptation. But what might help us want to turn down a temptation most, and steer away from sin, is the idea that behind every law of God stands the heart of God. When we break His laws, it seems we might just break His heart. Who would want to do that to a God that loves us as much as He does?

**Sometime, take a look at the book of Hosea. You'll see examples of how the heart of God responds to the sins of His people.**

**SIN & TEMPTATION:**

Some helpful quotes . . .

Temptations, of course, cannot be avoided - we cannot prevent the birds from flying over our heads, (but) there is no need (to) let them nest in our hair. -- *Martin Luther*

Every time we say "yes" to temptation, we make it harder to say "no" the next time.  
-- *Jerry Bridges*

The weaknesses we see in the people of the Bible are the very weaknesses we ought to recognize in ourselves. Like Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, we are vulnerable to temptation when we act on our own. Like Abraham, who lied about his wife to save his neck, we are vulnerable to temptation when we are scared. Like David, who slept with Bathsheba while his men were off to war, we are vulnerable to temptation when we are idle. Like Elijah, who wanted God to end his life, we are vulnerable to temptation when we are exhausted. Like Peter, who denied his Lord even after he promised to die for him, we are vulnerable to temptation when we are overconfident. In other words, we are vulnerable to temptation practically all the time.

-- *Philip Graham Tyken*

Satan gives Adam an apple (fruit), and takes away Paradise. Therefore in all temptations let us consider not what he offers, but what we shall lose.

-- *Richard Sibbes*

Christian maturity is not indicated by the infrequency of temptation but by the infrequency of succumbing to temptation.

-- *Douglas Moo*

**Am I willing to say "no" to temptation, and "yes" to God, today?**

**SIN & TEMPTATION:**

If you know someone for whom a particular sin has become a habit, then you could share some advice with them from this Nugget.

Author Randy Southern, in his book entitled *The World's Easiest Guide for New Believers*, has some advice about problem sins (sins that seem to plague a Christian over and over again). He gives six suggestions on how to defeat these sins:

1. **Recognize the problem sin for what it is** - Don't try to downplay or explain away repeated failures. Whether this behavior seems like a psychological compulsion, an addiction, an attempt to escape reality or block memories - (if God would not be pleased with it) it is still a sin. Use a Scripture verse as a weapon to help you overcome it.
2. **Confess, confess, confess** - Problem sins make for some awkward prayer moments. Don't allow that awkwardness to keep you from taking your sin to God as many times as you need to. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

3. **Change your patterns of behavior** - We indulge in certain wrongdoings because they're convenient or available to us. Change your behavior patterns, the places you go and the way you spend your time. Don't put yourself in a position to sin. For example, if getting drunk is your problem sin, stay away from bars, clubs, or anywhere alcohol is served.
4. **Change your friends** - If the people you hang out with encourage or facilitate your recurring failure, it's time to find a new circle of friends. (Make a change) for the sake of your relationship with Christ. "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" (I Corinthians 15:33).
5. **Talk it over with someone you trust** - The more secret a sin is, the easier it is to return to it. "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (Ephesians 5:11) Enlist a few of your most trusted friends in your struggle against your problem failure. Create a mini-network of accountability for yourself.
6. **Consider professional help** - Talk to a qualified Christian counselor about your situation. Ask a pastor or trusted Christian friend to recommend one to you. Granted, this is a major step, but it could mean the difference between lifelong problems and spiritual freedom.

I would add one more bit of advice - put up your favorite picture of Jesus near the place where you are most likely to commit this habitual sin. It's hard to look Him in the face and choose to sin at the same time.