

## Further Answers to Questions from Sermon 12.6.2020

By Ryan Jorgenson

- How do I run away when the temptation comes from my own mind?

Great question! When it comes to the temptations that seem to come from within only, we need to do an inner battle against those temptations using the Word of God and prayer. Listen to these passages.

*Romans 12:2 - "2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

*2 Corinthians 10:5-6 - "5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete."*

We can hear the inner mental battle language in these passages, can't you. God says we are to take captive every thought to be obedient to Christ. And we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How do we do that? One way is simply speaking to oneself and telling yourself to think biblically about a certain subject. At this moment some of you may be thinking "Are you crazy?". But speaking to yourself is actually a biblical concept. David did in Psalm 42:5 when he told his soul to not be depressed. In addition to speaking to yourself, we need to speak to God in prayer. Ask God to give you the strength to obey God's Word. Finally, we need to know God's Word about the temptation, so we need to study and memorize His Words on the subject we're being tempted about. We can also quote those verses to ourselves in an effort that they sink deep into our mind, heart and out to our actions.

- The verses in James use different Greek words for trials vs temptations. Would you think Joseph was both tempted as he faced a trial ? Or was this simply being tempted. In other words , God uses out trials was God setting Joseph up to persevere?

Well you're in luck because our Executive Pastor Tony Anderson happened to just teach on this passage recently so when have get some time, please watch or listen to it for answers your question. [Trials to Thanksgiving Sermon](#)

- For the past few months I have really liked this particular girl, however she is not a born again Christian; I believe she is agnostic. I have prayed a lot about it and I have only grown to like her

**more. But I worry that my scenario isn't healthy because we are on different tracks with our faith. Do you have any advice?**

Romantic relationships heading towards a possible life-long marriage are very serious and asking for advice and most of all God's will on the matter is very important. You're very wise for asking and I commend you for that!

Thankfully, God has spoken about this subject for His people. Please read His Words below. To summarize them, God does not want nor permit His people to marry or even be very close to non-Christians in the deepest kinds of relationships. There are a few reasons. One is because if we really love Jesus, how could we find a lot of connection with those who do not? By nature a non-Christian hates God and is an enemy of God. Imagine if you love your mom but you want to hang with someone who hates your mom. It doesn't make any sense and your love for your mom would be in question if you hung with those who hated her. Second, there is no spiritual direction neutrality. In other words, we are always either going towards Christ or away. Being deep in relationship with a non-Christian will always pull God's people away. God is keeping His people pure and holy because He loves us. The spiritual neutrality myth also applies to non-Christians. You may say "But he/she is an agnostic, he/she doesn't hate God when he/she doesn't even know if He exists." But that's not what God's Word says about non-Christians and all people. Romans 5:10 is just one of multiple verses that tell us all people are enemies of God and hate Him in our hearts until we are born-again. Most non-Christians will deny this claim of the Bible about themselves but I have found if you lovingly bring them to the point of decision of giving up their sins and to surrender their lives to Jesus, many will become angry, thus showing their deep hate towards God. It's kind of like cornering a wild animal. The animal seems fine and even friendly until they are cornered. (Note: But praise be to God who came to die for enemies like you and I once were! He makes us friends and family of God when we surrender to Him our rebellious hearts!)

So, the questions are, do we love Jesus? If we do, we will want to spend the most time with people who also do because we have the shared passion. And, do we love Jesus so much that we want to stay pure and holy in our lives? If so, we will want to stay pure by spending most our time with those who will pull us towards Christ, not away.

*2 Corinthians 6:14-18 - "14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty."*

\*Note: Please do not think God is saying He does not love non-Christians when hearing all of this. He literally died on the cross for them and all of us! He is just saying until someone becomes a Christian, they are an enemy by their choice of God and will only pull His people away until they become Christians themselves. Our passion and role is to love them and share the Gospel with them while not being deeply yoked with them at the same time. It's a balance the Spirit can show us if we ask Him. But marriage is the deepest relationship of bonding and is never permitted to be between a believer and a non-believer and dating is the process towards marriage, so dating a non-Christian doesn't make any sense if marriage is the end goal.