**God’s Word Hidden in the Heart**

*Psalm 119:11*

**Introduction**

1. Temptation is common to man **(cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13).** It is a part of our everyday life, and we are expected to continually overcome.
2. God has promised He will keep us from temptation we are not able to bear, but how are we to bear the temptations we are confronted with?
3. How are we to win the daily spiritual battle? What has God equipped us with?
4. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – The ultimate and sufficient tool God has given us to win the battles against temptation is His word.
   1. Doctrine – it gives us the teaching necessary to know God’s will for us.
   2. Reproof – it reproves us when we stray from such teaching.
   3. Correction – it redirects us back to the path God has laid for us after finding out about our shortcomings.
   4. Instruction in righteousness – it is a constant source of instruction of walking rightly before God.
5. This ultimate tool is sufficient, but it is something of which we must have a proper estimation, and that we must know how to use in order for it to be effective.
6. Our Relationship with God’s Word **(Psalm 119:9-16)**
7. A Desire for Holiness **(v. 9a)**
   1. Implied is the overwhelming desire to cleanse one’s way.
   2. Too often Christians aren’t finding spiritual success and growth because they are too fond of the world:
      1. **James 4:4** – friendship with world is enmity with God.
      2. **1 John 2:15** – do not love the world.
   3. The first step to grow in holiness is the desire for it:
      1. **Matthew 5:8** – only the pure in heart see God.
      2. **1 John 3:1-3** – If we have the hope of being as Jesus is we will purify ourselves.
      3. Do we really value the things of God? Do we really want to see God, and be with Him?
   4. Not even God’s word can be effective if we do not truly want what it has to offer, and what it’s purpose toward us is – **cf. James 1:21** – lay aside the sinfulness, and your desire for it!
8. An Understanding that God’s Word is the Only Way **(v. 9b)**
   1. It is an ironic matter when men seek spiritual growth and holiness in places other than God’s word.
   2. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – it is what God has given us to be complete.
   3. **Colossians 2:1-10** – the Colossians were allowing themselves to be cheated as the sought spiritual value in things of the world.
9. A Diligence in Seeking **(v. 10)**
   1. Some expect to grow spiritually and be equipped to face temptation by only a daily Bible reading. Some even think just showing up to the assembly is all that takes.
   2. The Bible shows that each individual must be a diligent seeker.
   3. Every fiber of our being should be devoted to finding out more about God, and walking in such knowledge.
   4. **Matthew 7:7-8** – Jesus made it clear that it won’t simply be given to us. We have to ask, seek, and knock.
   5. **2 Timothy 2:15** – BE DILIGENT. (**cf. Psalm 1:2** – day and night) (STUDY – not simply a cursory reading.)
10. A Treasuring of God’s Word **(vv. 11a, 12, 14, 16a)**
    1. Hidden – *ṣâp̱an*; to hide (by covering over); by implication, to hoard or reserve. (Strong)
       1. “to hide, treasure, treasure or store up” (Strong)
       2. “The word rendered “hid” means properly to conceal, so that a thing may be secret, private, inaccessible; then, to lay up in private, to treasure up. to hoard - as money or jewels - commonly “hidden” from public view.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
    2. For God’s word to be effective we must see it’s value, and act accordingly as it is our most prized possession.
    3. God’s word gives life – **John 6:63, 68; 12:50**
    4. We value that life, treasure it up, and protect it – **Matthew 13:44-46**
    5. Do we have this estimation of God’s word? – **Psalm 19:7-11**
11. A Hatred of Sin **(v. 11b)**
    1. The Psalmist’s goal, as is related to achieving holiness, is to refrain from sin.
    2. Christians need to appreciate God’s HATRED for sin, and partake in such themselves.
    3. **Proverbs 8:13** – to fear God is to hate evil.
    4. **Psalm 97:10a** – those who love God hate evil.
    5. **Romans 12:9** – Christians are called to abhor evil.
    6. **Psalm 119:104** – hate every evil way.
    7. Does sin disgust us? Does it make us uncomfortable? Do we hate it?
12. A Dwelling on God’s Word **(vv. 13, 15)**
    1. It is not enough to simply know God’s word on an intellectual level.
    2. It must be something we continually ponder, i.e. think deeply about in regard to how it should act in our lives.
       1. “One is said to hide the word in one's heart when one has it continually present with him, not merely as an outward precept, but as an inward motive power in opposition to selfish action.” (Keil & Delitzsch)
    3. **Galatians 5:25** – (after the fruit of the Spirit) – we need to WALK by what we know in God’s word.
    4. **Joshua 1:8** – Joshua was commanded to always have God’s word on his mind, in his speech, and practice.
13. A Constant Remembrance of God’s Word **(v. 16b)**
    1. “He will never forget what he has learned of the things of God: “*I will not forget thy word,* not only I will not quite forget it, but I will be mindful of it when I have occasion to use it.” Those that meditate in God's word, and delight in it, are in no great danger of forgetting it.” (Matthew Henry)
       1. Not simply intellectually, but practically.
       2. We need to remember on a factual level so we have God’s instruction at our fingertips, but we must not choose to forget by pursuing the Devil’s offer.
    2. Jesus on several occasions – “Have you not read?”
       1. Divorce – **Matthew 19:3-6**
       2. Resurrection – **Matthew 22:31-32**
       3. Not that they did not know the passages to which Jesus referred, but that they had not treasured them, hidden them in their heart, and they had willfully forgotten them.
14. God’s Word Hidden in the Heart
15. Displayed in the Life of Jesus **(Matthew 4:1-11)**
    1. Jesus is our perfect example of how to combat temptation – **cf. Hebrews 4:15**
    2. When He was tempted by Satan He used scripture as a defense, and weapon. HE HAD HIDDEN GOD’S WORD IN HIS HEART THAT HE WOULDN’T SIN AGAINST HIM.
    3. The temptations of Jesus **(Matthew 4:1-11):**
       1. **(vv. 1-4)** – temptation to cater to the physical rather than the spiritual.
          1. Quoted – **Deuteronomy 8:1-5** (verse 3 quoted)
          2. Gave manna to know that they were dependent upon God’s provisions.
          3. ESPECIALLY SPIRITUALLY – every word that proceeds from God’s mouth.
          4. Jesus to Satan – I am more concerned with my soul than my body, and to succumb to temptation would be to kill my soul. God’s word is what I need, so God’s word is what I’ll obey.
       2. **(vv. 5-7)** – temptation to test God’s protection.
          1. Satan takes **Psalm 91:11-12** out of context.
          2. Quoted – **Deuteronomy 6:16-19** (verse 16 quoted)
          3. God said He would provide for the Israelites if they kept His commandments – “THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU”
          4. To test the Lord’s protection by doing what Satan said would SHOW A LACK OF FAITH.
          5. Jesus to Satan – I DO trust God, and I know He’ll provide if I remain faithful to Him. I will NOT test Him.
       3. **(vv. 8-10)** – temptation for immediate gratification.
          1. Quoted – **Deuteronomy 6:10-15** (verse 13 quoted)
          2. Everything good that Israel had came from God, not themselves, and not idols. To turn to idols would be to forsake the God that had provided, and He is JEALOUS.
          3. Jesus to Satan – I am here to serve God, not myself, and certainly not you. Only God is worthy of worship.
       4. **(v. 11)** – The devil left Him and angels ministered to Him **(cf. James 4:7-8a).**
       5. NOTE: Every time Jesus said, “IT IS WRITTEN,” He was speaking to Satan, but the instruction quoted was for Himself.
16. Displayed in Our Own Lives
    1. Confronted with false doctrine – **1 John 4:1-3** – test the spirits. I know this is false, and I will not follow it because God’s word says otherwise.
    2. Temptation to forsake the assembly – **Hebrews 10:24-25** – I will not decide on something above the assembly because I know God demands my presence, and my brethren count on me being there each time.
    3. Tempted by immorality – **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** – I will not commit any form of immorality, sexual or otherwise, because my body is not for that purpose. It is for serving the Lord.

**Conclusion**

1. God demands holiness in our lives. It is His desire that we be fully devoted to Him, and that we refrain from sin.
2. The only way we can keep ourselves from succumbing to temptation is to hide God’s word in our heart.
3. If we place God’s word in our heart we will be sufficiently equipped to handle anything Satan throws at us.