



# New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5:17

Sunday, August 18, 2019

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## PASTORAL PONDERING

### Our Battle With Temptation

*"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you" ~Psalm 119:11*

Lynn and I were on our way to Walmart one day and started to have a discussion about the hard reality of daily temptations and the battle we must have for practical holiness, and faithfulness each and every day. We were discussing how exhausting this battle is at times, and also how joyful it is to walk in obedience to God's Word. Obedience is actually liberty and freedom. The joy of obedience far exceeds any of the fleshly joys of sin. Sin keeps us in bondage and shame.

You may ask the question: Do we really need to fight for practical holiness? **The Biblical answer is YES!** Here's just a few of the many verses for you to review, [1 Peter 1: 15-16](#), [Romans chapters 6-8](#), [Ephesians Ch. 6](#), [Galatians Ch. 5 & 6](#), and the warning from our Lord in [Matthew 5:29](#), "*if your eye or hand causes you to sin, cut it off.*" Jesus is not saying that we need to remove body parts, because it's really a heart issue. We are to take drastic measures against our besetting temptations and sins. Scripture is very clear about this. One commentator writes, "All sin is from our pride and is self-worship."

Pastor Tony taught us about sin while teaching through Judges; here's a few of his comments; a) Sin in its many forms are exhausting for us - a vicious cycle that drives you deeper and deeper into sin and despair. b) We need to stop listening to our flesh and walk in the Spirit of Christ. We deeply need a Savior to deliver us, and we must live every moment in-Christ. c) Without Jesus, we are hopeless against temptation and sin. To continue to live in habitual sin as a Christian is to go contrary to God's very purpose for our salvation.

In [Romans 6:14](#), Paul writes, "*For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*" Paul is telling us that God expects every Christian to live a faithful and holy life, it is the promised birthright of every believer. Sin shall not be our master. Remember, in this life we are imperfect, yet we are saved sinners because we are clothed with the perfect righteousness of Christ. We will never be sinless in this life, but we are to sin less. And when we sin, we then confess our sin to God immediately and we are forgiven, ([1 John 1:9](#).) We are to grow in our faith and be transformed into His image. When we became believers in Christ, not only was the penalty of sin removed, the power of sin was also removed. This is a big point. In theological terms, when Christ justified us

He also sanctified us, what grace! Please meditate on [Philippians 2:12-13](#). In other words; when Christ entered your heart thru the Holy Spirit, you now have a heart desire to live a holy life pleasing to God. Actually, one of the evidences of saving faith is that you fight sin. Yes, we fail often, but over time with the Lord's help we make progress over our besetting sins, and all the glory goes to Him.

Over the years I've come to find some helpful Biblical approaches in resisting temptation.

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Bruce Gilliland (Treasurer):  
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**Greeting Card Ministry**  
Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426  
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**GriefShare Adult Ministry**  
Connie B: 715.557.1431  
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**GriefShare Youth Ministry**  
Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945  
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**Immerse Ministry**  
Pastor Paul Linzmeier: 320.226.5581  
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**Meal Train Relief Ministry**  
Danielle Panik: 715.554.2214  
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**Missions Outreach**  
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**Music Ministry**  
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**Newsletter Administration**  
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**Resource Center**  
Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945  
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**Sunday Meal Services**  
Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or  
715.755.3330  
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**Transportation Services**  
Art Behr: 715.220.6882  
[behrden1@charter.net](mailto:behrden1@charter.net)

**Video Ministry**  
Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
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## PASTORAL PONDERING

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Here are a few:

1. The Word of God has always been our best defense against Satan's temptations. The more time we spend in His Word, meditating, memorizing, and applying it to our lives the easier it will be to claim victory over our daily sinful struggles. In **Psalm 119:11**, the author writes, *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you"*. When Christ was tempted by Satan in the desert, the first thing He did was to quote Scripture (**Matthew 4:4-10**), which eventually caused the devil to leave Him. It's important that we make it a daily priority to be in God's Word and allow it to transform us. Look also at **Psalm 119:105**.
2. Prayer plays an important role in resisting temptation. Jesus tells Peter in **Mark 14:38** *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."* Jesus also taught us the Lord's Prayer to pray that we do not fall into temptation. Apostle Paul tells us in **1 Thessalonians 5:17** *"pray continually."* I have found this principle to be very helpful, continuous fellowship with our Lord moment by moment.
3. Another way to help us resist temptation is to remember what Jesus Christ did for us. Even though He never committed a sin, He willingly endured the torture of the cross for us while we were still sinners. Every sin we've ever committed, or will commit, played a part in nailing our Savior to the cross. How we respond to Satan's worldly allurements is a great indicator as to just how much the love of Jesus Christ occupies our hearts.
4. We must flee from temptation, remember the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife, Joseph just ran away from the temptation. We must remember that the "tempter" is also the master of rationalization. And there is no limit to the arguments the devil can offer us to justify our sinful behavior.

All our efforts to resist will be weak and ineffective unless they are powered by the Holy Spirit through the constant reading, studying, and meditating of the Word. In this way, we will be *"transformed by the renewing of your mind"* (**Romans 12:2**.) Armed with God's Spirit and the truth of His Word, we are well equipped to overcome any of Satan's assaults, (**Ephesians 6**) By walking in the Spirit, temptations can be used as opportunities for us to show God that He is indeed the Master of our lives. May all of the glory be given to our Lord and Savior, the founder and perfecter of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**.)

Your brother in-Christ, Jim Nelson

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

**Cleaning Help Needed:** As New Life grows in number, so too does the need for cleaning. If the Lord is prompting you, we could use some volunteer cleaning help in the building; particularly, floor mopping in the sanctuary. Hours are flexible, and all materials will be supplied. Please see Jim Judkins if interested.

**Video Ministry:** We are looking for a switcher, someone to sit in the booth and switch between camera views. This is a chance to serve the body of Christ, by serving those who are unable to be here in person. If you are interested or just want more information, contact Jim Mabee via [jbmabee@gmail.com](mailto:jbmabee@gmail.com) or 651-470-4172.

**Immerse:** Immerse season soon begins **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** If you are interested in ways to serve, such as supplying snacks, teaching or assisting in a class, or caring for our youngest in the nursery, please email or talk to Pastor Paul.

### WHATS HAPPENING:

**Hall of Men:** Hey men! The next Hall of Men is **Sunday, August 25th at 6:30 pm**. That is *next* Sunday already. Looking forward to seeing the hand of Christ in another man of Faith from the past.

**Congregational Prayer Service:** Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, September 4th at 6:30pm**. This is a great opportunity to not only share prayer requests, but also to participate and pray with and for the needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**GriefShare:** The regular 13-week session for GriefShare resumes starting **Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ Have you been to the **Resource Center** lately? Even if you are not the type to have your nose in a book, we encourage you to check out what's there. The elders and pastor's choose books that we believe are some of the best resources for a given topic. These books never replace the Word but can be helpful tools to aid in your study of the Word. Take a look today after service!
- ❖ We have a **Greeting Card** service that is available to spread good cheer and encouragement or condolences and sympathy to others in our church community. Talk to Lynn Nelson and she will be happy to help you out with one of her beautifully hand-crafted cards.

Join us Every Sunday Morning @ 8:30am in the large classroom to pray together as a body.

#### Upcoming Sunday Potluck/Meal Teams:

August 25                      Meal Team #5  
September 1                    Meal Team #4

**Fellowship and a meal follow our service today ... Please stay and join us!**

#### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
<a href="mailto:galatiansii20@yahoo.com">galatiansii20@yahoo.com</a>	
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Cory Mattson - Secretary	715.417.0945
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Paul Gilbertson	612.799.4865
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132

#### Schedule of Events Week of August 18-24

Wed	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Thurs	Deuteronomy Bible Study 7:00 pm

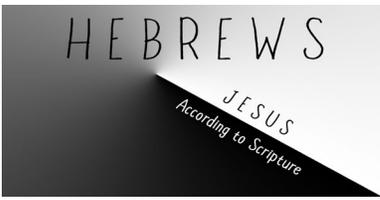
#### August Memory Verse:

##### **Romans 12:9-10**

*"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." ESV*

#### *August Fellowship Tip:*

Share your testimony with someone this week, and then ask them to share how the Lord has graciously worked in their life.



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,  
[Hebrews 9:11-14](#)

Sermon Notes: