

Great Principles in Overcoming

Intro

- 1) No congregation could be troubled with more problems than the Corinthian church in Paul's day.

Divisions, Schisms, Factions	Litigations
Carnality	Envy, Jealousy
Immaturity	Traditionalism, Heathenism
Immorality	Idolatry
- 2) In the closing chapter of his first letter to these people, Paul was inspired to suggest a solution to their problems. He suggests five great principles which will also be of help to us as we battle temptations.

I Corinthians 16:13

I. Watch - Be on Guard, Be on the Alert

- A. Soldiers wouldn't post a guard unless they seriously considered the possibility of an intrusion.
 1. We have rightfully made light of those who are continuous "prophets of doom." Like the sluggard in Prov. 26:13 - "There is a lion in the streets."
 - a. Motive? Laziness
 - b. Motive? Lack of confidence
 2. But there is a lion in the street that we must constantly watch for. I Pet. 5:8 - "Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion. . ."
 3. I've heard you must never get too close to a bear - even when shot in the heart or brain, it can still crush you before dying. It is a mistake beyond measure for Christians to believe: "Just a little sin wouldn't hurt anybody."
- B. Jesus knew how vulnerable we are to temptations. In the garden of tears: "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41
- C. To the Ephesians Paul made a meaningful description of this principle: "See then that ye walk circumspectly . . ." (Ephesians 5:15)

II. Stand Fast in the Faith

A. Concerning your convictions toward Christ:

Hold Your Ground - Do Not Budge

“Be Ye Steadfast” Paul said in 15:58, “unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

1. Hard to be tempted when busy doing good.
2. This is not an admonition to be stubborn; not always a virtue.

a. Trivia matters - I Peter 3:19

b. Matter of opinion - Time of service

Matters of tradition - Wisdom calls for open mindedness, not stubbornness.

Matters of expediency - Wisdom calls for open mindedness, not stubbornness.

What should we be stubborn about?

B. Steadfast “in the faith.”

1. 15:1ff - This is what Paul preached - the gospel.
15:17-19 - If he is not raised - no need to be here.
15:20 - He is raised - that makes all the difference.
2. II Timothy 1:12 - “I know whom I have believed . . .”
I may be ignorant of a lot of things and may be wrong about some things I think I understand, but “I know that my redeemer lives and intercedes for me!”
3. My idea concerning body of truth and God’s idea may be worlds apart, but I know that Jesus Christ is truth because he said it.

Stand Fast - Be stubborn

4. I shall stand fast in the authority of the Scriptures. “Brethren,” Paul said, “stand fast and hold the traditions which ye were taught, whether by word, or by our epistle.” II Thessalonians 2:15

III. Act Like Men

A. READ I Samuel 4:5-11 - Philistines afraid of Israelites.

Fear Will Cause: 1. Quitters
 2. Extreme Effort

B. II Samuel 10:9-12 - Joab surrounded Syrians on one side, Ammonites on the other side. "Be of good courage, and let us play the man for our people."

1. Let us fulfill our roles - people are depending on us.

Moms - tempted to sin - people are depending on us.
Dads - tempted to sin - people are depending on us.
Christians - Remember who you are and how many would
 topple with you if you fall.

2. Be mature; grown up; serious; like men - not babies.

We will overcome Satan if we:

IV. Be Strong

A. Easy to say. Can't out-wrestle Satan without spiritual muscles.

B. Ephesians 6:10 - "Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might." How?

READ verse 11, 14-18 - To be spiritually strong:
It takes Faith, Prayer & Study.

Lastly overcome sin through:

V. Love

A. Does it take faith? - yes
Does it take hope? - yes, but . . .

B. I Corinthians 13:13

C. Our greatest motivation for uprightness is love. We do not deliberately hurt those we love: "If you love me you will keep my commandments."
John 14:15

Concl. How much do you love Jesus?

- 1) Enough to pattern your life from his?
- 2) Enough to obey his gospel request?
- 3) Enough to work in his service?