## **Overcoming Temptation**

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## Introduction:

Theological truth about temptation (James 1:13-15)

- God does not **tempt** anyone, and God cannot be **tempted**. (v.13)
- Temptation can lead to sin: Evil <u>Desires</u> + <u>Distractions</u> + <u>Decisions</u> = Death (14-15)

Question: Why is it important to overcome temptation?

- To protect and preserve our inner **joy**, **peace**, and **fellowship** with the Lord
- To protect and preserve our life **testimony** and **purpose** in God
- To protect and preserve our <u>relationships</u> with our spouse, children, and community

Lessons from Joseph's story on how to overcome temptation (Genesis 39:1-17)

- A. The Heart Condition of Potiphar's Wife (Gen 39:7-17; 1 John 2:16-17)
  - 1. Lust of the **Flesh** Desire for Pleasure (Gen. 39:7)
  - 2. Lust of the **Eyes** Desire for what's not yours (Gen. 39:10-11)
  - 3. **Pride** of life Desire to preserve one's reputation rather to admit wrongdoing (Gen. 39:13-17)

**Insight for living**: Allow God's word to expose the condition of our hearts and dispose desires that will give birth to sin

- B. Because God was with Joseph and His favor was upon him (Gen. 39:2-6)
  - 1. Joseph <u>developed</u> godly Character (Gen. 39:2-6)
    - · He made wise and prudent decisions (v. 4)
    - · He was responsible (vv. 5-6)
    - He was successful in everything that he did (vv. 2-3)
  - 2. Joseph was **devoted** to his godly Conviction (39:6b-12)
    - He acknowledged God and did not want to sin against Him (v. 9)
    - He was aware of the consequences (vv. 8-9)
    - He was consistent in his conviction to follow God, whether in his public or private life (v.10)
  - 3. Joseph <u>displayed</u> Self-control (vv. 11-12)
  - 4. Joseph <u>depended</u> on God

## Conclusion