

SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING – 3

MAY 15, 2019

REVIEW:

- Walking worthy requires wisdom and spiritual understanding. **COLOSSIANS 1:9-10**
- Healing involves spiritual hearing, seeing, understanding and changing.
- Salvation has more to do with life on earth than just getting to Heaven.
- Jesus saved what was lost: Relationship, glory, authority, identity, created value.
- Redemption – We are righteous saints, not just forgiven sinners.
- The temple – We are God’s temple now, not a brick and mortar building.

CONTINUE:

UNDERSTANDING TEMPTATION – JAMES 1:2-4

How can we consider temptation as a “matter of the greatest joy” without having spiritual understanding? The short answer is we can’t. We must understand our joy comes from within, not without.

ACTS 5:40-42 - The Apostles acted apart from their emotional feelings and rejoiced when others less mature would’ve complained about their circumstances. **HEBREWS 5:12-14** – Gives us insight. Our senses want to control our lives and dictate to our behavior. By habitual use, we can learn to keep our senses in check, and lean on the deposits of love, joy and peace within. The word count means to “command” joy.

1. The reward. **JAMES 1:12**

- A. The crown of life is an everlasting crown that can never be taken away as was Adam and Eve’s when they fell. It’s the crown of glory that will be upon those who endure temptation and learn how to overcome its intentions.

2. The tempter. **JAMES 1:13**

- A. God is not the tempter. **MATTHEW 4:1-3** – Reveals the tempter as being the devil. He understands our emotional make up and uses his tools to get us to fall into sin.
- B. **GENESIS 3:1** – The first lesson we learn is that God is the creator and the devil is the tempter. He has many tools he uses to deceive God’s people into exalting his lies above God’s Word.

3. The temptation. **1 CORINTHIANS 10:13**

- A. God is not the one tempting people, Satan is. God doesn’t allow him to use powers beyond this realm to tempt us with. This verse doesn’t say God won’t give us more than we can handle.
- B. **GENESIS 3:2-6** – The temptation was to get her to act apart from God’s Word and on her emotional feelings.
- C. **JAMES 1:14-16** – The metaphor is taken from fishing with bait. The fish only sees what it wants, not the danger of the hook.

4. The tactics. **GENESIS 3:4-6**

- A. Deception – The enticement was the promise of profit. To mislead, misinform or lead astray with lies. “Is that what God meant?”
- B. Doubt – To doubt the integrity of God’s Word. “It’s not true!”
- C. Denial – To agree with the lie – “you won’t die!”
- D. Disobedience – The action taken.
- F. Destruction – The consequences of sin.
 - Satan appeals to natural desires of feelings to make sin attractive. The fruit on the tree was as a billboard advertising something good.

CONCLUSION: Through knowing God’s will and having a spiritual understanding of temptation, we equip ourselves to endure temptation and promote our spiritual maturity.