The Transforming Power of DISCIPLESHIP

of imiracles, are they? to an thave gets with tongues, do then not speak with tongues, do then not speak with thouses, do the not sinterpret, do they? It is notly desire the greater who nestly desire the greater who aby the one Spirit, to and to another the reflecting of a min and to another sprophecy, and to another sprophecy and to another statisting askinds of spirits, and to act another various akinds of tongues, and to accompany to their the and the same Spirit works to the another the same spirits to each all these things, adjustibuting to each all these things, adjustibuting to And I show you a still lent way. The Excellence of Love 13 if I speak with the store and of bangels, but have love, I have become a real have clanging cymbal. 2 A real thave love, I have exceeded a beor a clanging cymbal. 2 Abd w
or a gift of aprophecy, and k
the gift of and all knowledge
omysteries and all knowledge. all these things, adistributing to each one individually just as He wills.

12. For even as the body is one and **Transformed** 12 For even *as the body is one and have sall faith, so as to remove yer has many members, and all the have sall faith, so as to leave, I am tains, but do not have love, I am tains, And II I give all my personal in I demonstrate the poor, and II I demonstrate the poor, and II I demonstrate the poor, and II I demonstrate the poor in the members of the body, though they are members of the body, though they are many, are one body, bso also is Christ.

13 For taby one Spirit we were all bap tized into one body, whether blews or By tized into one Spirit we were all bap tized into one body, whether blews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all made to cdrink one member.

14 For the body is not one member. were all made to cdrink of one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member.

15 If the host should say, 15 If the host should not a constant the less and for the body.

16 And If the less should say, 16 In this rea constant the less should say, 16 In the less should say, 16 In the less constant the less should say, 16 In this rea constant the less should say, 17 If the whole constant the less should say, 18 In the less constant the less cons body it profits me nothing, has love, it profits me nothing. I have it kind, and six patient, love does not brag and it ous; love does not act unbecomes ous; love does not act unbecome rogant, not seek its own, it adoes not take in **TROUBLE** rogalli not seek its own, is not seek its own, is not seek its own, is not seek woked, suffered, o stoes not resolve wrong suffered, o stoes not resolve unrighteousness, but brejokes unrighteousness, but brejokes all things, he had all things, he had things, hopes all things, he had things, hopes all things, he had all things, he had all things are gifts of it there are storged and are gifts of it there is knowledge done away. If there is knowledge will crase, way, o For we sknow body," it is not for this reason lany the last line, not a last line body. 17 If the whole last line body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole whearing be? If the whole where meaning would the sense of the mem. 12.21 cost last now God has aplaced the body. 12.21 cost bers, each one of them. in the body. be done away o For we sknow bers, each one of them, in the body, bjust as He desired. I where would were all one member. and we prophesy in part; to be the perfect comes, the parties were all one member, where would 22 third are the body be? 20 But now body. 21 have many members, but one hand, 14 have the eye cannot say to the hand, head to the eye cannot say to many members or again the head to have we closhed no need of you. 11 hs much these we closhed no need of you. 25 have no need of yours have no need of yours. the perfect of When I was a done away. If When I was a used to speak as a child, o child, reason as a child; when child, reason away with char-a man, I did away with char-a man, now we see to 12 For but then stace to 1 dimly in pare, but then

WHY ME?

"The Bible requires you and me to believe that God is at work - bringing sickness and pain – for a specific purpose. Obviously, our Heavenly Father would like us to cooperate, instead of just sitting back in mystified resignation and letting Him get on with it as though He were a heavenly dentist."

Harry Whittaker

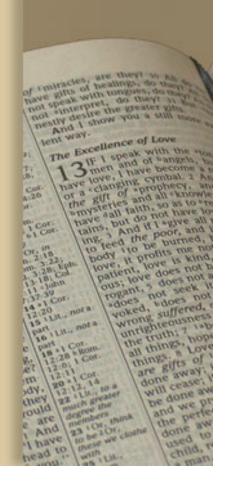
Through Patience and Comfort of the Scriptures



Take Heart!

John 16:33 (NIV)

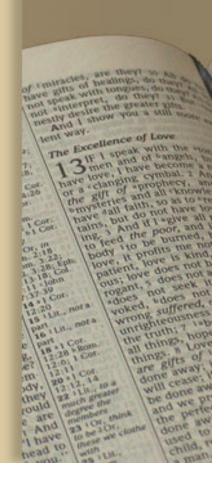
33) "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."



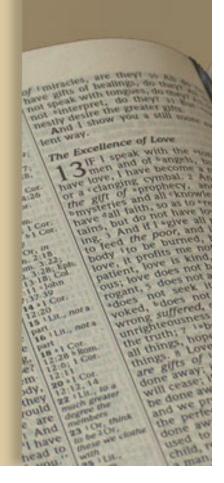
Take Heart!

2nd Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

17) For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

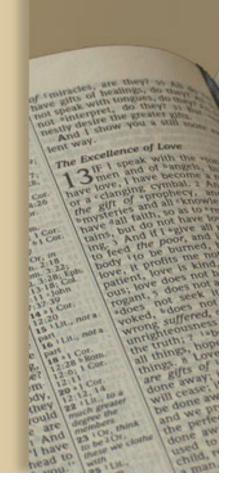


- LIFE is a series of PROBLEMS
- Problems are part of God's Plan to TRANSFORM you into a better person

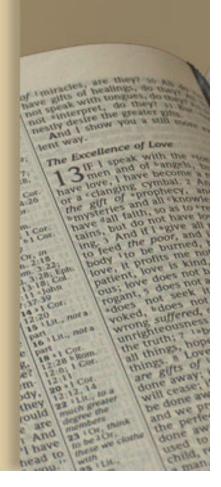


1st Peter 4:12-13 (MESSAGE)

- 12) Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job.
- 13) Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

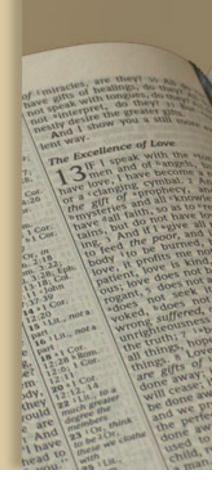


- LIFE is a series of PROBLEMS
- Problems are part of God's Plan to TRANSFORM you into a better person
- God uses Problems to draw you CLOSER to Him



Psalms 34:18 (NLT)

18) The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit.



Suffering

- Your closest times with God will probably be your DARKEST DAYS
- It is during Suffering that we learn to pray our most authentic, heartfelt, honest prayers
- God is more concerned about TRANSFORMING you than TRANSPORTING you

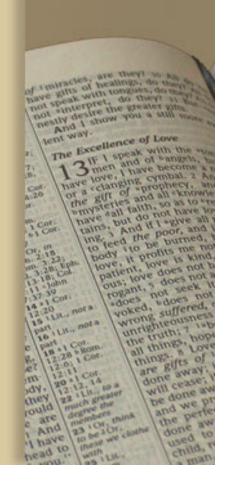


Look to God

 Problems FORCE us to look to God for help instead of trusting in ourselves

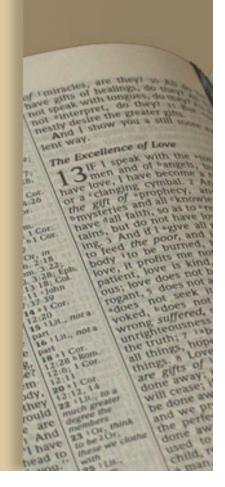
2nd Corinthians 1:9 (MESSAGE)

9) We felt like we'd been sent to death row, that it was all over for us. As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally - not a bad idea since He's the God who raises the dead!



Look to God

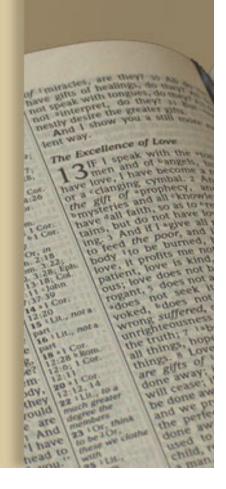
- Problems FORCE us to look to God for help instead of trusting in ourselves
- You'll never know that God is all you NEED until God is all you've GOT



God ALLOWS it to happen...

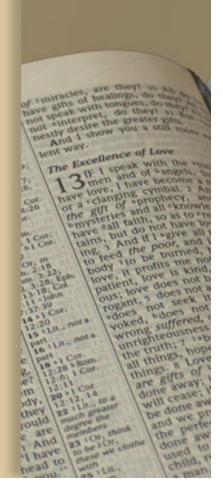
Romans 8:28-29 (NLT)

- 28) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
- 29) For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters.



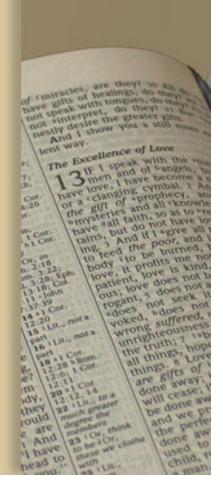
Romans 8:28

- we know...
- Our hope is based on the certainty of Truth
- that God causes...
- God has a plan for you, and He is perfect
- everything...
- God's plan for you involves your mistakes
- to work together ...
- Interdependent parts of a process...



Romans 8:28

- for the good...
- God specializes in bringing Good out of Bad
- of those who love God…
- The promise is only for God's Children
- and are called according to His purpose...
- God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His son!

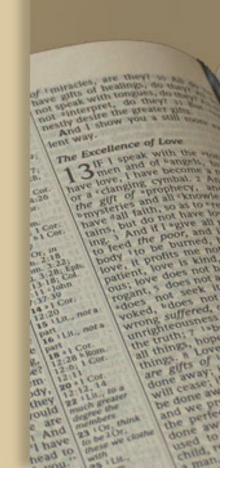


God Wants to TRANSFORM Us!

- Your Circumstances are TEMPORARY
- Your Character will last FOREVER

1st Peter 1:7 (MESSAGE)

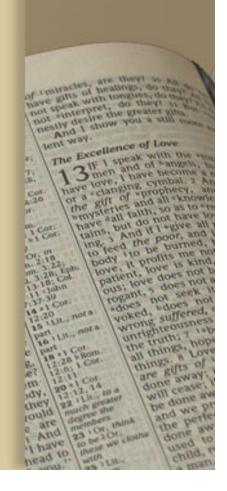
7) Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of His victory.



Made Like Jesus

<u>Hebrews 5:8-9</u> (CEV)

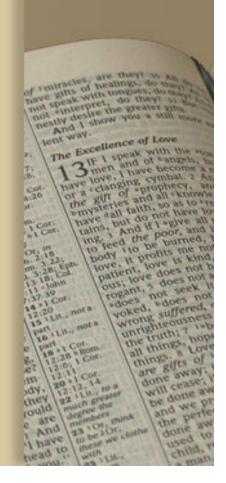
- 8) Jesus is God's own Son, but still he had to suffer before he could learn what it really means to obey God.
- 9) Suffering made Jesus perfect, and now he can save forever all who obey him.



Made Like Jesus

Romans 8:17 (Message)

17) We go through exactly what Christ went through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

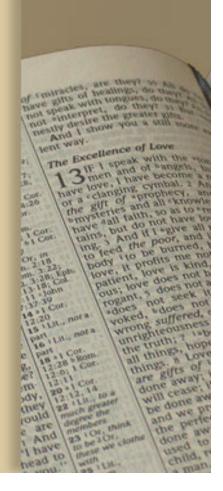


Don't become BITTER rather than BETTER

1. Remember that God's Plan is GOOD

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

20) You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

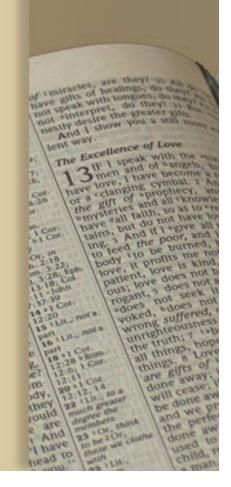


Hebrews 12:10 (MESSAGE)

10) While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best.

<u>Hebrews 12:2</u> (LB)

2) Keep your eyes on Jesus, our leader and instructor. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterwards.

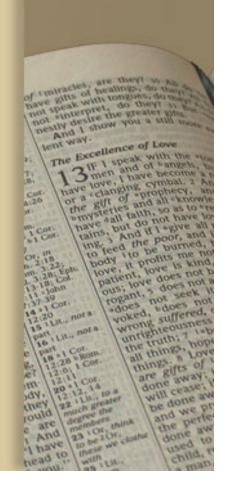


REMEMBER!

- Pain is TEMPORARY
- Your Reward is ETERNAL

2nd Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

17) For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!

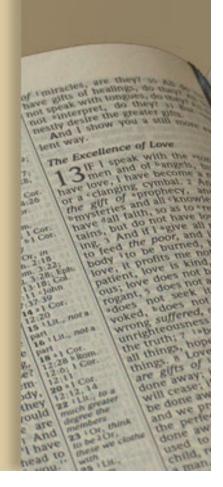


Don't become BITTER rather than BETTER

- 1. Remember that God's Plan is GOOD
- 2. **REJOICE** and Give Thanks

1st Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

18) Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



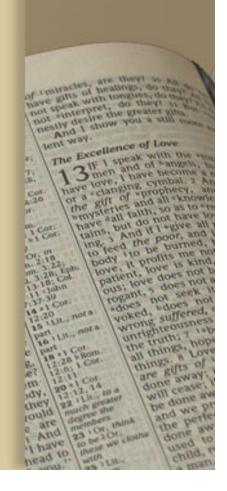
Don't become BITTER rather than BETTER

- 1. Remember that God's Plan is GOOD
- 2. REJOICE and Give Thanks
- 3. Refuse to GIVE UP



James 1:3-4 (CEV)

- 3) You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested.
- 4) But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything.



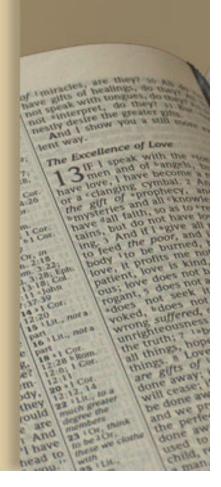
Transformed by Trouble

Character Development is all about praying for God to CONFORM you, and not just COMFORT you!

DON'T GIVE UP!

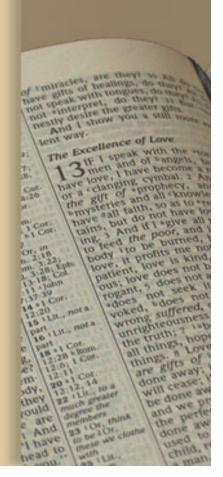
GROW UP!

God is TRANSFORMING you by TROUBLE



Transformed by Temptation

- God uses TEMPTATION to Transform us
- God allows Temptations in our lives in order to cause us to GROW
- God wants GOOD to come of it!



Transformed by Temptation

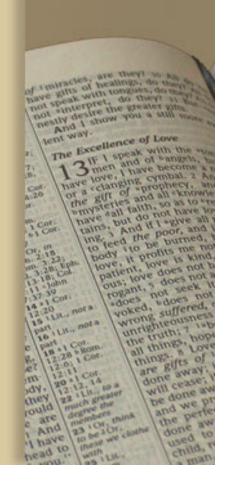
- Character Development involves a CHOICE
- Temptation is the ultimate expression of FREE WILL
- Temptation is an opportunity to SIN
- Every Temptation is also an opportunity to do GOOD



The Character of Christ

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

- 22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 23) gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.



How God Teaches Us

LOVE

JOY

PEACE

PATIENCE

KINDNESS

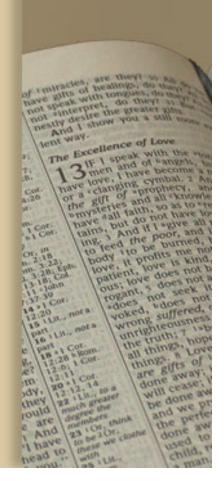
GOODNESS

FAITHFULNESS

GENTLENESS

SELF-CONTROL

- By UNLOVELY People
- By Times of SORROW
- By Times of CHAOS
- By Having to WAIT
- By UNDESERVING People
- By INCONVENIENT Times
- By Making Sliding EASY
- By Positions of POWER
- By Living in EXCESS

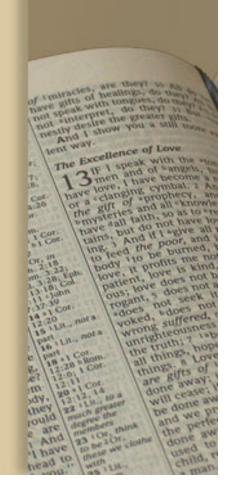


Defeating Temptation

- God ALLOWS Temptation in our Lives
- But, God does NOT Tempt us

James 1:13 (NIV)

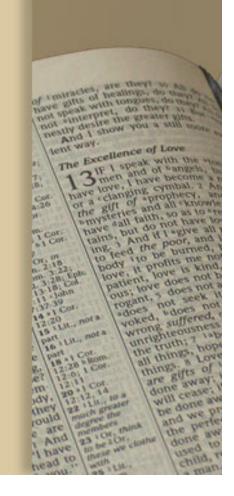
13) When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone



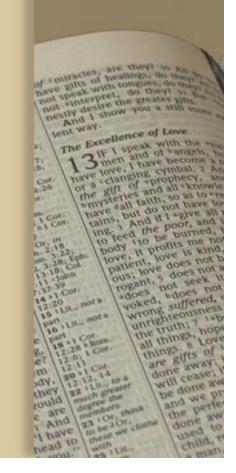
Garbage In - Garbage Out

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

- 7) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
- 8) The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.



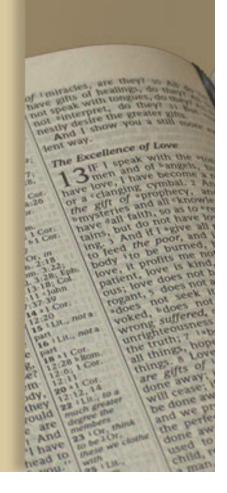
1. Refuse to be **DEMORALIZED**



It is NOT a SIN to be Tempted

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin.



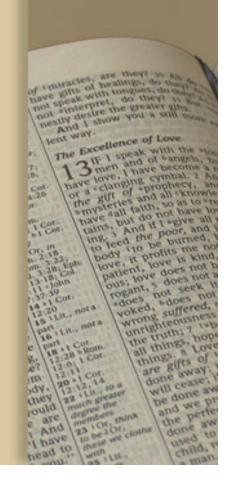
- 1. Refuse to be DEMORALIZED
- 2. Recognize your PATTERN of Temptations



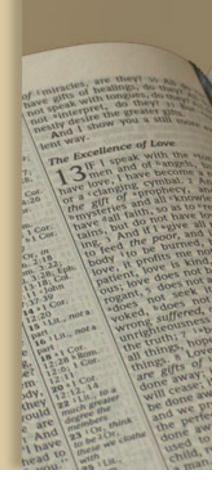
 Learn what circumstances make you the most VULNERABLE and learn to AVOID them

James 4:7 (NIV)

7) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.



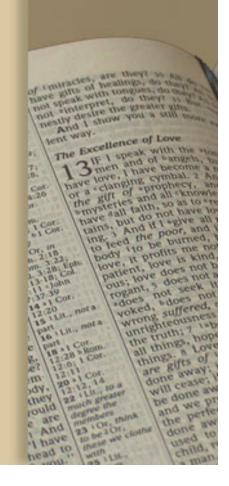
- 1. Refuse to be DEMORALIZED
- 2. Recognize your PATTERN of Temptations
- 3. REQUEST God's Help



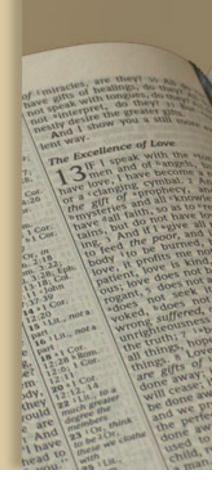
- God's Patience Endures Forever
- God doesn't get IRRITATED or BORED when you continually come back to Him for help

1st Corinthians 10:13 (Message)

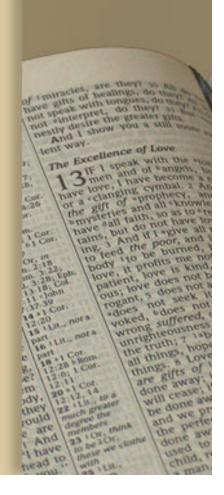
13) No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.



- 1. Refuse to be DEMORALIZED
- 2. Recognize your PATTERN of Temptations
- 3. REQUEST God's Help
- 4. REFOCUS Your Attention



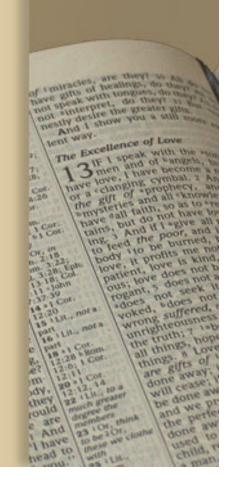
- Temptation begins by CAPTURING your attention
- What gets your attention AROUSES your emotions
- Your emotions ACTIVATE your behavior and you act on what you feel



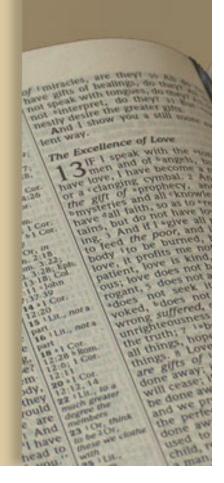
 Once your mind is on something else, the temptation loses it's power

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.



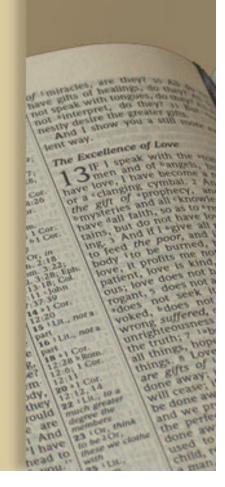
- 1. Refuse to be DEMORALIZED
- 2. Recognize your PATTERN of Temptations
- 3. REQUEST God's Help
- 4. REFOCUS Your Attention
- 5. REVEAL Your Struggle to a Godly Friend



- If you are LOSING the battle against Temptation...
- You will NOT get better on your own!

James 5:16 (Message)

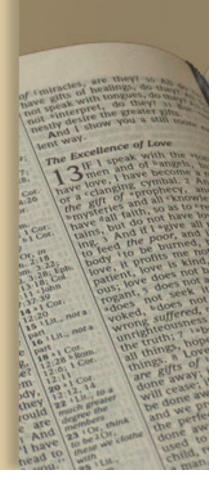
16) Make this your common practice:
Confess your sins to each other and
pray for each other so that you can live
together whole and healed. The prayer of
a person living right with God is
something powerful to be reckoned with.



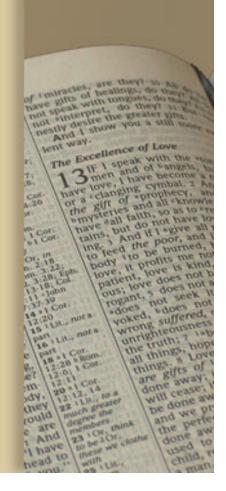
Don't REPRESS it!

CONFESS it!

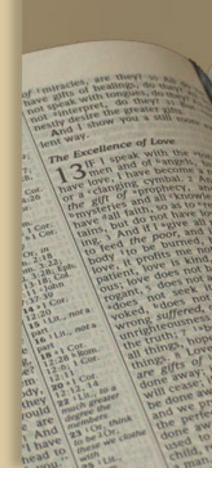
- You are only as sick as your SECRETS
- Stop PRETENDING you are perfect, and share your inner self with a friend
- Willpower and personal resolutions are NOT ENOUGH



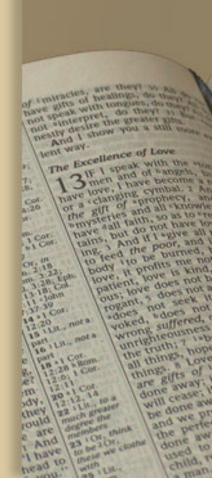
- 1. Refuse to be DEMORALIZED
- 2. Recognize your PATTERN of Temptations
- 3. REQUEST God's Help
- 4. REFOCUS Your Attention
- 5. REVEAL Your Struggle to a Godly Friend
- 6. FIGHT The Temptation!



- Get AGGRESSIVE in your battle against temptation and sin
- Use the Word of God as your WEAPON
- Memorize Bible verses, so you won't be shooting blanks at the time of the battle



- 1. Refuse to be DEMORALIZED
- 2. Recognize your PATTERN of Temptations
- 3. REQUEST God's Help
- 4. REFOCUS Your Attention
- 5. REVEAL Your Struggle to a Godly Friend
- 6. FIGHT The Temptation!
- 7. Realize Your VULNERABILITY
- Develop a HEALTY APPRECIATION of your own wickedness



Transformed by Trouble

- God allows TROUBLES and TEMPTATIONS into our lives NOT because He wants to PUNISH us...
- But, because He wants to CHANGE us into BETTER SERVANTS
- God wants to TRANSFORM us into DISCIPLES of Christ

