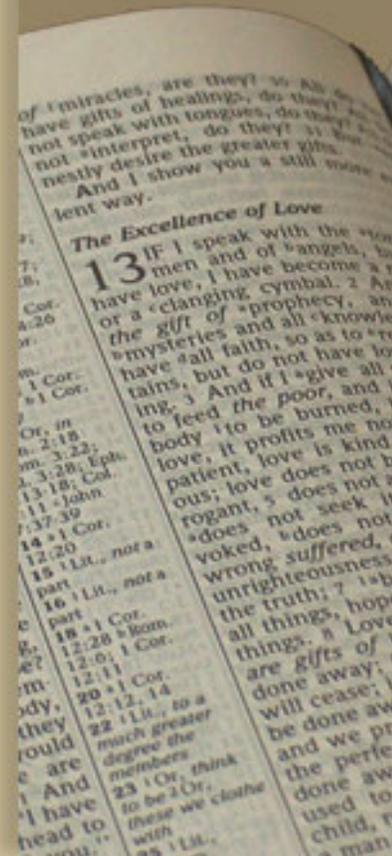

The Battle Within

Romans 7:15-19 (NIV)

- 15) I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.
- 16) And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.
- 17) **As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.**
- 18) I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.
- 19) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, **the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing.**



The Battle Within

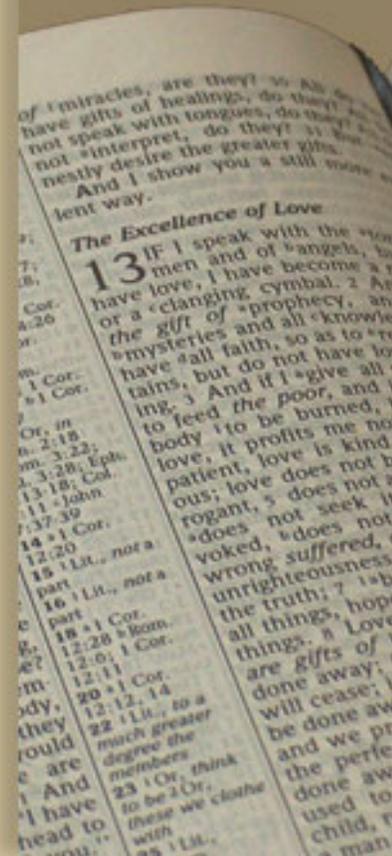
Romans 7:20-23 (NIV)

- 20) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.
- 21) So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.
- 22) For in my inner being I delight in God's law;
- 23) but I see **another law at work in the members of my body**, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.



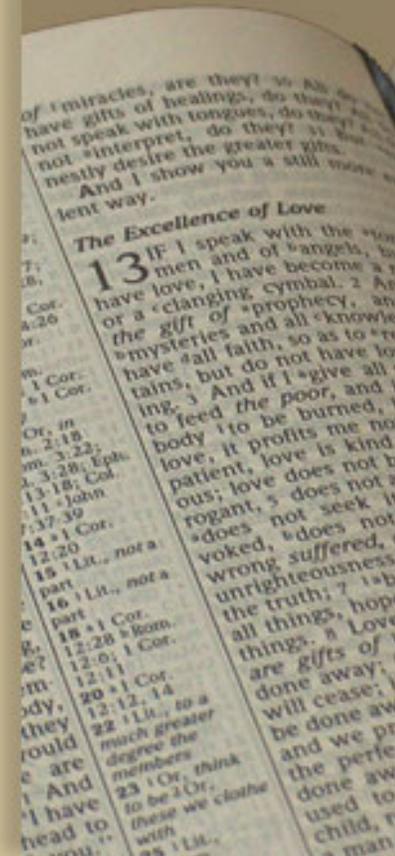
Transformed by Temptation

- 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**



How God Teaches Us

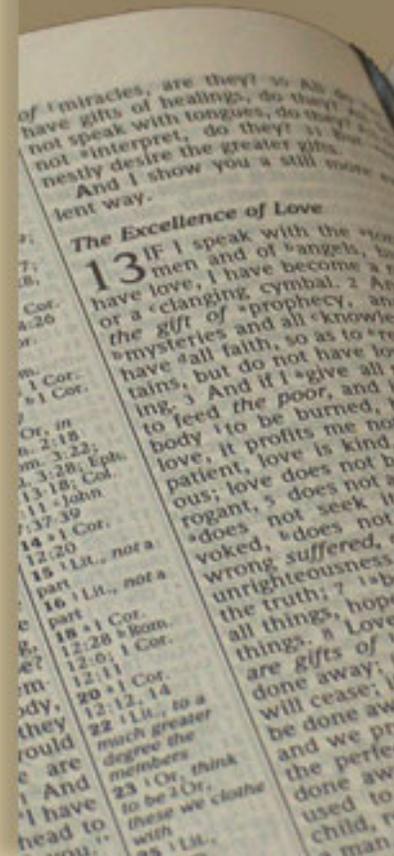
- LOVE - By **UNLOVELY** People
- JOY - By Times of **SORROW**
- PEACE - By Times of **CHAOS**
- PATIENCE - By Having to **WAIT**
- KINDNESS - By **UNDESERVING** People
- GOODNESS - By **INCONVENIENT** Times
- FAITHFULNESS - By Making it **EASY** to Sin
- GENTLENESS - By Positions of **POWER**
- SELF-CONTROL - By Living in **EXCESS**



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.**



Overcoming Temptation

- 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.**

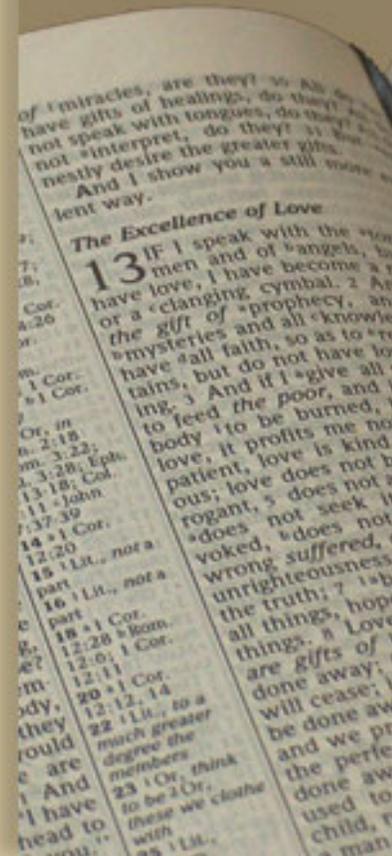


Overcoming Temptation

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

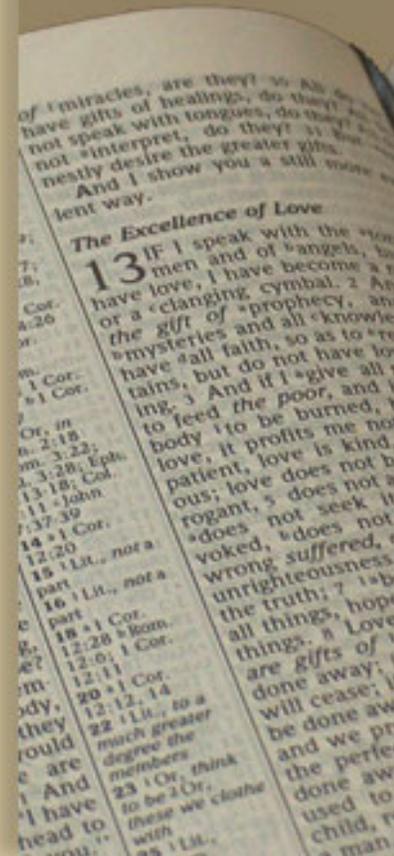
James 4:7 (NIV)

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



Overcoming Temptation

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



Overcoming Temptation

- *Develop a **HEALTHY APPRECIATION** of your own wickedness*
- *Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*



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