

"Help Me Overcome"

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." - Matthew 6:13 (NIV)

Two problems with "temptation":

- How we interpret the word 'temptation' in today's culture
- How the original Greek word was translated into English

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. ¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;" - James 1:12-13 (NIV)

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." - James 1:2-4 (NIV)

ACT on temptation:

Admit it

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." - 1John 1:8 (NIV)

Confess it

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
- 1John 1:9 (NIV)*

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed..." - James 5:16 (NIV)

Turn from it

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." - 1Peter 4:8 (NIV)

"The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. ¹²Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." - Revelation 12:9-12 (NIV)

Small Group & Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What schemes does the evil one tend to use with you (temptation patterns)?
2. Are you in the midst of a temptation right now? What might God be leading you to do about it?
3. Read Ephesians 6:11-18. How can you use this passage in your temptation?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:8. Is there someone you know in the midst of temptation that you could come alongside to strengthen and encourage? Do you have someone in your life that will love you enough to get in your face?
5. What did you learn? E-mail Pastor Kent to let him know. kentc@northway.org