



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**



CFF is called to:

Radiate the love of Christ

Reach the Lost and the Saved in order to

Restore them into fully mature followers of Christ

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend at least 5 minutes a day – at least 5 days last week reading/hearing the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with someone this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked you give?**

- Last week I said I was going to say some things that could make some of you mad or uncomfortable- I simply asked that you would listen to what the word of God said and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you thru it & then pray on it this week!
- We all have a “God Filter” by which we process what we hear, so it is hard for us to hear things that don’t align with how we’ve been taught to believe.
- It doesn’t matter what we’ve been taught – What matters is God’s truth!
- Truth aligns with Scripture & the Holy Spirit will affirm it

- Reading verses from last week:

1 John 2 1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone

obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

- Some very challenging things here and especially the last sentence “*Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did*”
- We understand Jesus lived in full Obedience to the Father and that is our call as well... so – now we consider that we have been told “not to sin”... we know Jesus lived without sin but we are born in sin.
- So – we have to figure out how? what? where?

- Please hear me clearly – I am not trying to convince you to believe how I believe – I am simply challenging you to know what God’s word says and understand that we all will answer to Him on how we live our lives in the truth!
- In Matthew 3 Jesus comes to John the Baptist and is baptized in the Jordan river. It is here John proclaims “behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”
- Jesus is baptized and the Holy Spirit descends from heaven in the form of a dove upon Jesus.

Matthew 4 1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

- This amazing moment of the beginning and immediately Jesus is put into a challenging situation!
- “Temptation” – this is where we are focusing today
- Jesus was tempted – just as you and I will be tempted throughout our lives.

Hebrews 4 12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- A strong call for us to recognize the power of God's word in our lives & that our lives are completely transparent before God – NOTHING is hidden!!

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in

every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- Jesus faced everything we will have to face in this life and He was victorious... therefore, we come to God seeking the help we need to live victorious!!
- Temptation is NOT sin... Jesus was tempted but was without sin. We must then understand the difference between temptation and sin.
- As long as we live on earth we will be tempted

- So, let's understand the difference
- Matthew 4 says Jesus was fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and was hungry.
- We all completely understand what it's like when we are hungry – if we've gone a few days without eating everything smells and looks amazing.
- What happens in this challenge with Jesus in the wilderness?

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

- This is a very practical way for us to see temptation and how the enemy works to get us to cross the line.
- It seems harmless to have Jesus just turn the rocks into bread - nobody was around – nobody would have known – He was hungry – what’s the big deal?
- Jesus was hungry – the enemy will tempt us in areas that we are weak.
- All 3 areas that Jesus was tempted in during this exchange with satan: Food, Glory, & Fame – all have to do with “self”

- With each temptation Jesus overcame the same way:
4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (*Deuteronomy 8:3*)
- Jesus defeated temptation through the Word of God
- This is why we have weekly accountability questions about regularly spending time in God’s word!
- If we aren’t spending time in God’s word – how are we defeating the temptations that are coming against us? The things the enemy wants to use to entangle us – to get us focusing on “me”

Hebrews 2 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- Jesus was ‘fully human’ and He defeated sin in the flesh thru living in full obedience and surrender to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit –THIS victory is how you and I can live a victorious life!!

1 Corinthians 10 1 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the

same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day

twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- Jesus has defeated the enemy for us... He has made a way for us to escape the tests – temptations – and challenges that come our way to rob us of our victory!
- We are called to live by the Holy Spirit's power in victory over the enemy!

Action Steps

- Have you repented of your sin and accepted Jesus as your Savior?
- Are you spending time in God's word?
- Are you living in victory over temptation in your life by the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God?
- How has the enemy used temptation to confuse you into believing you can't live a victorious life?
- What Bible verses do you hold to in order to defeat the enemies temptation? (1 Cor. 10:12-13, Romans 8:28, Proverbs 3:5-6)