

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Resisting Sins of Our Youth

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The early years of young adulthood are full of wonderful joys and blessings as we begin to experience the world on our own. Yet it is in these crucial years that Satan seeks to enslave us to his service. As we begin to grow and have aspirations and desires of our own Satan puts before us an array of temptations in attempts to get us to stray from our God. He seeks to devour us as prey (1 Pet. 5:8).

Despite these relentless attacks during the early years of our lives, God does not leave us alone or unprepared (Heb. 13:5). We find throughout the Bible that He has equipped us with His will and strength so that we might resist the temptations of our youth and that we might stand complete before Him (2 Tim. 3:15-17). There are three points that I believe will help us to resist sin in our young adulthood.

1. Take Heed to God's Word- In Psalm 119:9-11 we find how a young man can cleanse his way: by taking heed to God's word. Taking heed or following God's word is crucial to keeping one's life pure, but it doesn't end there.

Two other specifics are mentioned in this passage that will greatly aid in the resistance against sin. First, we must seek God with our whole heart (vs 10); only when we have the desire to seek and know God will we be willing to take the steps necessary for a godly and pure life. Second, we must have an intimate knowledge of God's word and hide it in our hearts (vs 11). Notice the reason behind closely knowing God's word: that we might not sin against Him!

2. Flee From Temptation- We must follow the exhortation of Paul in 2 Tim. 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Too often people try to have their cake and eat it too, by attempting to hold on to sin and serve God at the same time. This is problematic, because the two are mutually exclusive. Note what Jesus states in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other." We should not try to flirt with sin or get as close as we can, rather we ought to get as far away as possible.

3. Trust in the Faithfulness of the Lord- One of the difficult things about temptation in our youth is that we often fail to trust that the Lord will provide. We want immediate satisfaction and from our selfishness we often fail to let His promises take effect in His time. Satan will tempt you with passing pleasure, but we must resist and have confidence in the Lord's care. "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one" (2 Thess. 3:3).

It is so easy for us to get caught up in the passing pleasures of this world and fail to have our hearts and minds set on God. Yet, you should "Remember the Creator in the days of your youth...Fear God and keep His commandments" (Eccl. 12:1,13). Keep your focus on God, because at this time in life you are preparing yourself for the rest of life.

Whether young or old may we in faith be grounded in His word, flee from youthful lusts, and trust in the Lord's provisions, all the while resisting the sins of our youth!