



## TRUSTED SERVANTS and ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

Thursday

## AVOIDING TEMPTATION

Wednesday

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have called us to serve You and some mother in love. Thank You for the many different gifts each of us has been given. Help me to humbly offer my service to others with the gifts You have given me and welcome the gifts and service others bring. Together may we give full expression of all You have planned for us to do. Amen

Thank God we can let go of the pressure of having all the answers, being right all the time, or always being in control. Without fear, we can confidently bring our perspective and our service, because God knows how to fit all the pieces together to accomplish His good plan.

A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another. (Romans 12:4-5 CEV)

God's plan has always been for us to live in relationship with Him, loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and then loving our neighbour as ourselves. This love recognizes the gifts that God gives each person, and our need for one another, so we can be complete. Nothing seems less perfect than a jigsaw puzzle of a beautiful scene missing a few pieces when it is put together. We need to enjoy one another and do our part in what we have planned together.

Three are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 CEV)

As we hear Tradition 2 read in each AA meeting, we are reminded that, "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern." This principle invites all of us to share and do our part in the group.

Prayer: Gracious God, I admit that I am weak and ask You to strengthen me by the power of Your Holy Spirit to overcome temptation. Give me the will and the desire to do what pleases You. Amen

Timothy 2:16 NLT) Be practical in everyday living. We need to make reasonable plans and live in the discipline of each plan. Empty and unstructured time can easily make us vulnerable to temptation. So be careful! how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. (Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT)

- Read the Bible and faithfully apply the truths we learn. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11 NLT)
- Pray and ask God to keep us conscious of what is helpful or what is harmful. Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing but the body is weak (Matthew 26:41 NLT)
- Avoid places, people, and actions that invoke temptation thoughts. Stay away from every kind of evil. Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. (1 Thessalonians 5:22, •

One of the best ways to overcome temptation is to stay as far away from what tempts us as we possibly can. How do we do that? Here are some practical guides:

God wants us to live in victory over temptation. He promises that in every situation this is possible. For those of us who have struggled with addiction and relapsed numerous times, that's incredibly good news.

When we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, God's Holy Spirit comes to live in us, and He teaches us the truth about life that we could never know on our own. It is this truth that results in us "having discernment." It is more than our conscience speaking to us, or "trusting our gut." This is God revealing truth to us, so we can live well.

**Prayer: Heavenly Father, I confess that You are the only wise God. Teach me Your ways so I may discern and choose what is the best path for my life. Amen**

Many humans continue to function in this world as though they will live forever. They don't consult God with regards to what is best for them and end up suffering painful consequences for the unhealthy choices they make. The truth is, without God's wisdom, none of us know how to live purposefully in this life or what will happen to us in the next. What are we to do?

God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT)

When humans were created, we were meant to live forever in relationship with God. God graciously gave humans free will to choose to love and obey Him. Even though humans made a choice to disobey God and their relationship with Him was cut off, extremity remains in the human heart where it was planted when we were created.

People with discrimination usually do the right thing in each situation that arises. Spiritually discriminating people, based on their knowledge of God and His ways, have the capacity to separate and sift what is good from what is best.