

“Temptation Builds Christian Character”

As the end of all things is rapidly approaching Satan’s attacks on God’s “last-day” Church will become more severe. There will be temptations and persecution on every side and on every front. Satan desperately wants us to deny our faith and trust in Christ. He will use family, friends, and yes, even church members to accomplish his bidding.

As Christ’s followers we need to rely more on the “sure word of prophecy,” than ever before as we see the evil day approaching.

History tells us that John Wycliffe, John Huss, and Jerome of Prague, Martin Luther, and others were faithful Christians who would not deny their belief in the gospel of Jesus; regardless of the penalties imposed on them by the Church of Rome. For their faith in Jesus, and belief in the infallible teaching of God’s word, many of the pioneers of Christianity were martyred. Stephen becoming the first in 34 A.D, {See Acts7:51-60}.

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

Jesus makes in plain that "... all those who live godly in Christ Jesus **shall** suffer persecution," II Timothy 3:12. However, the good news is that Jesus promises to give us power so that we can endure and be as faithful as those witnesses who have gone before us. This power of course is the power of the Holy Spirit that directs our choice to make right decisions.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13

We are all aware of how Potiphar's wife on several occasions tried to seduce Joseph, but she was unsuccessful, Genesis chapter 39}.

Listen to what Ellen White says, commenting on Joseph's temptation. 'Joseph's faith and integrity were to be tested by fiery trials. His master's wife endeavored to entice the young man to transgress the law of God. Heretofore he had remained untainted by the corruption teeming in that heathen land; but this temptation, so sudden, so strong, and so

seductive-how should it be met? ... Joseph's answer reveals the power of religious principle. He would not betray the confidence of his master on earth, and, whatever the consequences, he would be true to his Master in heaven...' "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" he said. Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 72&73.

If we lift up Christ instead of self, carnal passions will be subdued by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to remember that the carnal mind and worldly associations are enmity with God, {Romans 8:6&7; James 4:4}.

Notice what Joshua says about our power of choice.

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose ye this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the god of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Is it a sin to be tempted?

'It is by close, testing trials that God brings His people near to himself; for in trial and temptation he discloses to them their weakness,

and teaches them to lean upon him as their only help and safeguard.

When this result is attained, his object is accomplished, and His tried servants are prepared to be used in every emergency, to fill important positions of trust, and to accomplish the grand purposes for which their powers are given them...'

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“Wherefore ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness, through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, bring much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” I Peter 1: 6&7.

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s suffering; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.” I Peter 4:12-14

