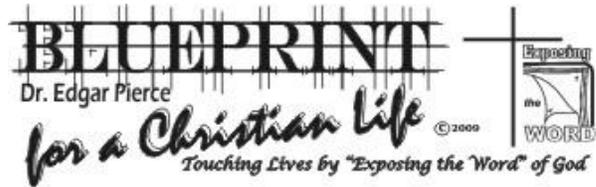


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7- Sticking by the Plan (Resist Temptation) 1 Cor 10:12-15

The Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful and costly tombs ever built, but there is something fascinating about its beginnings.

In 1629, when the favorite wife of Indian ruler Shah Jahan died, he ordered that a magnificent tomb be built as a memorial to her. The shah placed his wife's casket in the middle of a parcel of land, and construction of the temple literally began around it. But several years into the venture, the Shah's grief for his wife gave way to a passion for the project. One day while he was surveying the sight, he reportedly stumbled over a wooden box, and he had some workers throw it out. It was months before he realized that his wife's casket had been destroyed. The original purpose for the memorial became lost in the details of construction.

Dr. James Dobson, Coming Home, Timeless Wisdom for Families, (Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton; 1998), p. 122

We discussed the need for a plan before we start building early in this series. We have seen that a good builder, Jesus, is important. Last time we saw we need to stay on the jobsite in order to finish the job.

Let me ask us another question. Have you ever known someone who went over budget, way over budget, building a house or project? Unfortunately, most of us do not have the resources that will let us build a Taj Mahal.

What causes the over budget expenditures? Sometimes it is because of the volatility in material prices. But sometimes is that those building do not stick to the plan. They want to upgrade the doors, the windows, the cabinets, the floors, the walls, the exterior, the roof, the

insulation, the bathtub, the shower, the landscaping, the...oh, well you get the point. When you build you must resist the temptation to do a lot of these things or you will bust the bank, would you not agree. You have to stick with the plan.

I- Temptation to Deviate:

Is it any different in our Christian life? Temptation to deviate from the Master's plan and try to chase everything that glitters, shines and looks good is important. Paul talking about the purpose of the spiritual gifts warned us by the Holy Spirit in **Eph 4:14** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

Our text says in **1 Corinthians 10:12-15** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 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 to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.*

Temptation is kinda is like when the next door neighbor gets a new fancy door it went from being a want to a need. Temptation to not follow the plan in home or construction a building project always gets you in trouble. Temptation to not follow the plan of God always gets us in trouble as well.

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James warned us in **James 1:14-15** *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

We see from our text that we need to be careful because we will all face temptation to stray from the plan. He who thinks he is strong is warned in **1 Cor 10:12**. We are told also however that when we are tempted there is a way out in **1 Cor 10:13**.

Therefore, to help us to understand temptation lets look at two ways of handling it as a warning to us to stick with the Master's plan and not chase every distraction. These two ways are given to us in living examples in the Bible. One is a man named Joseph and the other is David.

II- David's Temptation:

Let us go to the story of David first. David, as you probably know, was the second King of Israel. He was anointed when he was a shepherd boy at a very young age. He is known as the greatest king Israel ever had. God said recorded in **1 Sam 13:14** that David was as man after His heart. It is found again in **Act 13:22** *And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.*

So surely a man like that could not be tempted so that he would fall. Let us look at David.

The story of David contains a great many triumphs of character and faith. David while being pursued by King Saul who was trying to kill him had two

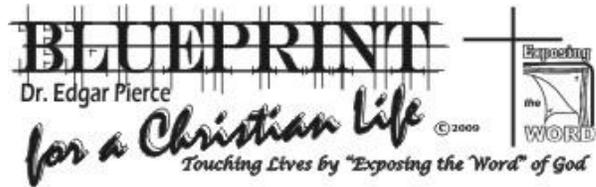
occasions that he could have killed Saul. David also had a desire to build the temple that his son Solomon built with the material that David secured. David also was the one who had faith to slay the giant Goliath. Then at the height of his power we pick up the story in the Bible.

2 Samuel 11:1-5 *And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. 2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. 3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? 4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. 5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.*

David did not handle temptation very well here. In fact he willfully submitted to the temptation. He did not stick with the plan.

Some people fall into temptation, but a great many make plans for disaster ahead of time. 'Son,' ordered a father, 'Don't swim in that canal.' 'OK, Dad,' he answered. But he came home carrying a wet bathing suit that evening. 'Where have you been?' demanded the father.

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'Swimming in the canal," answered the boy. 'Didn't I tell you not to swim there?" asked the father. 'Yes, Sir," answered the boy. 'Why did you?" he asked. 'Well, Dad," he explained, 'I had my bathing suit with me and I couldn't resist the temptation.' 'Why did you take your bathing suit with you?" he questioned. 'So I'd be prepared to swim, in case I was tempted," he replied.

The first thing that went wrong with David is he neglected his duty to go to war and sent others.

The second was he allowed himself to be tempted and then to act upon that temptation. By the way it is not sin to be tempted. James also said in **Jas 4:7** **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

David didn't resist nor flee. He deviated from the plan. If we are going to complete the plan for our lives we must not see the temptation and run and embrace it. He ended up having the husband of Bathsheba killed. What a tragedy.

III- Joseph's Temptation:

Not let us turn to Joseph. Who does not remember the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors, his brothers jealousy that ended with him being sold as a slave into Egypt. When he gets to Egypt he is sold into the house of Potiphar.

Genesis 39:1-13 **And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar... 4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 6... And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. 7 And it came to pass after these things, that his**

master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused...10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. 11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. 13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth.

Now obviously there is a stark difference in the way that Joseph handled temptation and the way David did. May I encourage us all to be like Joseph.

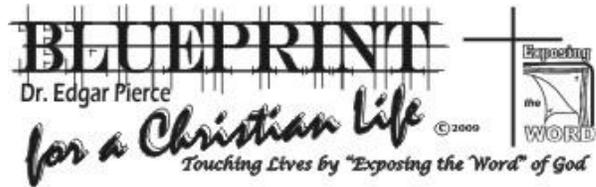
IV- Stick with the Plan:

I want to encourage each of us today to stick with the plan of God for our lives and not be distracted. Remember our text says, **1 Corinthians 10:12** **Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.** The writer of Hebrews warns us in **Heb 12:1** **Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

How are we going to do this? May I suggest we encourage each other? Let me end with one last story.

'One Saturday afternoon I watched the telecast of the world's light-weight boxing championship match. The boxers were a thirty-one-year-old Scotsman and a man from the United States who was six years

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younger. The Scot was the reigning champion, and the bout was being fought before a crowd of twenty thousand in Glasgow, Scotland. The champion had said before the match that he would rather die than be beaten before his own people; but the younger contender had never before been beaten in a professional contest.

'Soon after the match began it became clear that the battle would be close. As I sat watching, I heard something unlike anything I had ever heard before. It was faint at first, but it seemed to be singing, singing at a boxing match! Gradually, it became louder; hundreds and hundreds of male voices singing a strange Scottish

melody. I could hardly believe it. They were singing encouragement for their champion. As he fought for his crown, but even more for the respect of the Scottish people, they sang to encourage him.

'I have not thought about that contest since without a lump rising in my throat; nor have I thought of it without thinking how like the Christian's battle it was, and how like the role of the church to sing encouragement for its members".

From Charles Durham, Temptation, InterVarsity Press, 1982, p. 125