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***Power of Protection***

Matthew 6:13

Today we want to talk about the Prayer of Protection. This prayer always leads us to a path of escape from temptation! Paul says in 1 Cor 10:13, out loud with me, “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.”

Here are some suggestions:

I. You must A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR VULNERABILITIES

The question is this: What causes you to be vulnerable, weak, or susceptible to temptation? Jesus says in Matthew. 26:41, “Stay awake (Watch) and pray, so that you won’t enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” …

How can you determine the things that make you weak & vulnerable? I can assure you Satan knows these things. 5 questions:

1. W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ am I most tempted? (What day of the week? What time of day? What time of year?)

2. Where am I most tempted? (Work? Neighbor’s house? In the kitchen? At a Sports bar? At the beach? In front of a computer?)

3. W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is with me when I am most tempted? (Alone? With a friend? With a family member? Co-worker? Teammates? Crowd of strangers where no one knows us?)

4. What temporary benefit do I get if I give in to temptation? (Comfort? Excitement? False sense of confidence? Recognition?)

5. H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do I feel right before I am tempted? (Bored? Frustrated? Lonely? Discouraged?)

II. You must A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR WEAKNESSES

What you do is you decide in advance whatever needs to happen or that you need to do so that you do not allow yourself to get into the situation, circumstance or around the places or people that make you the most vulnerable & susceptible to temptation. We read in Proverbs 4:26-27, “Carefully choose the path for your feet, and all your ways will be established. 27 Don’t turn to the right or to the left; keep your feet away from evil.”

III. You must A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR HEART

Proverbs 27:19 says, “As water reflects the face, so the h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reflects the person.” Temptation always starts inside of you, not outside of you. The trigger may be on the outside, but it comes from inside of you. James 1:14, “But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ evil desires.” We read in Proverbs 4:23, “Guard your h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ above all else, for it is the source of life.”

IV. You must A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GOD FOR PROTECTION

Pray for God’s help. We read in Psalm 50:15, “Call on Me in a day of trouble; I will r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you, and you will honor Me.” Listen to Hebrews 4:15-16 as it describes Jesus, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ way as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.”

V. You must A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR ATTENTION

The key to overcoming temptation is not resisting it, but r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your life. The battle is in the mind. We learn in Ps. 119:5-6, “If only my ways were committed to keeping Your statutes! 6 Then I would not be ashamed when I t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about all Your commands.” Paul said in 2 Cor. 10:5, “…take e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thought captive to obey Christ.” Paul says in Romans 12:21, “Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.”-

VI. You must A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SOME ACCOUNTABILITY

You need someone or a group of people to depend on. You need to be in a small group Sunday School class where you can find accountability.

THE QUESTION: How serious are you about breaking free from this pattern of temptation, failure, guilt, sin, & frustration? You will never do it on your own or without support. God will help you, but you need someone who checks up on you, holds you accountable, & a group to support you! We read this in Eccl 4:9-10, “Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. 10 For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up.”