

DOTA 012 MEMORISATION 03
A DISCIPLE IS SURE OF VICTORY (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13)

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T = teacher 1 S = teacher 2

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. In the first series God promises that all Christians may have 5 assurances. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: A DISCIPLE IS SURE OF VICTORY.

POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is 1 Corinthians 10:13. We will ask one another questions to help us to meditate on the truths written in the Bible. Please read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

(S) 1 Corinthians 10:13. "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

(Question). The Bible begins with the issue of temptation. What is a temptation and what are the sources of temptations?

(T) A temptation is something that wants to cause me to sin. A temptation always wants to pull my life down into defeat.

The first source of temptation is the world in which we live. There are many things in the world that can lead us into temptation. In 1 John 2:15-17, the apostle John says that these temptations have to do with the things we see and then desire in our hearts and finally do. The eyes lust for forbidden things. The heart craves sinful things. After that, people give in to the temptation and do what is wrong. And after they have sinned, they even boast about the wrong things they have done. The apostle John warns that this kind of world as well as worldly desires is passing away.

The second source of temptation is the devil. The devil can also lead us into temptation. In Luke 4:1-13 we read that the devil is very real and very cunning. After Jesus had spent 40 days in the desert, the devil came to him to tempt him. The devil is mean, because he tempts people when they are weak.

In his first temptation, the devil tempts Jesus to distrust God. He tempts Jesus in *the area of basic human needs*, namely, food. After 40 days of fasting, Jesus was hungry. The devil wants Jesus to turn a stone into bread and so quickly satisfy his material needs. This temptation is designed to distrust God. The devil tries to destroy Jesus' confidence in God's will and power to sustain him when he is hungry. He tries to tempt Jesus to take matters entirely into his own hands and to act independently from God. The temptation is strong, but Jesus overcomes this temptation.

In his second temptation, the devil tempts Jesus to by-pass God. He tempts Jesus in *the area of power*. Probably through a vision, the devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. The devil lays claim on the kingdoms of the world and thinks that he can give them to Jesus if Jesus would only acknowledge him as 'lord' by worshipping him. This temptation is designed to by-pass God. The devil wants Jesus to take a short cut, by-pass God's plan for Jesus and so to become the king of the whole world through the power of the devil. Jesus knows that the devil is a liar and that the devil does not own the world. The temptation is real, but Jesus overcomes this temptation.

In his third temptation, the devil tempts Jesus to have a false trust in God. He tempts Jesus in *the area of the super-natural*. He tries to tempt Jesus to do something spectacular and sensational, namely, to jump off a high building. He tries to tempt Jesus to substitute presumption for faith and shameless arrogance for submission to God's guidance. He wants Jesus to make an experiment on God and test God to see whether God really is God and keeps his promises. By jumping off a high building, Jesus could prove that God exists and that God does what he promises. He tries to tempt Jesus to have a false confidence in God. The temptation is very cunning, but Jesus also overcomes this temptation.

The third source of temptation is our own sinful nature. Our own sinful nature can lead us into temptation. In James 1:13-15 we read, "When tempted, no-one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

(Question). What is God's relationship to our temptations?

(S) Sometimes God brings difficult circumstances in your life, and sometimes God even allows you to be tempted as a test. But God's purpose is always to make you go forward and to grow stronger! God's purpose is never to make you go backwards and fall into sin! Nevertheless, the trials in our life can become temptations whenever we let go of God's purpose and give in to our own sinful desire.

(Question). 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that the temptations that seize us are all temptations common to man.

What does he mean when he says all temptations are common to man?

(T) The Bible says that the temptations we get are the same kind of temptations everybody gets. The same kinds of things tempt every human being on earth. Money and other materialistic things tempt us. We get tempted by food and drink, by laziness and sleep, by our sexual desires and by the pleasures of life. We get tempted to get angry and revenge ourselves when people hurt us. We get tempted to grab power and control others, to cheat and gain money, to tell lies

and get out of a difficult situation. All these temptations and many others are temptations that all human beings face and experience.

(Question). How does God prove his faithfulness when we are tempted?

(S) When we are tempted, God proves his faithfulness to us in two ways. First, God never allows any temptation to be bigger than our ability to overcome that temptation. Second, whenever we are tempted, God always gives a way of escape.

(Question). Why does God allow us to be tempted?

(T) The Bible says that God is sovereign. God allows us to be tempted as *a test* in which he does not desire that we fail. God wants to test our faith in him and our obedience to his commands. God's purpose is to develop our character and make us mature. But God never tempts us to sin and he never desires that we fail! That is why God sovereignly controls every temptation, whether it comes from the sinful nature, the world or the devil. The sinful nature in us, the evil world outside us or the devil around us is not more powerful than God! God is more powerful than any temptation! He never allows a temptation to be too strong for us. And he never allows the temptation to corner us so that we cannot escape from it.

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, "And lead us not into temptation". This does not mean that God actually leads us into temptation.

As people with a sinful nature, we are prone to sin and often voluntarily run into tempting situations. Unless God sovereignly intervenes, we will give in to temptations. So we pray to God to sovereignly intervene and not permit us to do what we would do by nature. Everybody who relies on God and prays, "please do not permit me to run into tempting situations", will not fall when he is tempted and God will deliver him from evil!

But God can allow someone to be tempted by sin as a test, without desiring that he fail the test. In such a situation, the person could pray, "Lord, give me your grace not to fail the test!" For example, God permitted the devil to tempt Job to the utmost. This was a test to see whether God or the devil was right. In his severe temptations, Job relied on God and Job did not sin. In the end, God was proved to be right and to be the sovereign God and Job became a stronger and more mature man.

God can also permit somebody to follow his own sinful nature and fall into temptation. God has the right not to intervene! Especially people who do not pray prove that they are not dependent on God. And people, who do not pray, can also not rely on God's faithfulness. The temptation will be too strong for them and they will not find any way of escape out of the temptation. For example, many people exchange the truth for a lie and worship their own idea who God is. They worship a god that is quite different than the God who revealed himself in and through Jesus Christ. Unless these people repent and turn to Jesus Christ, God will give them over to the sinful desires of their hearts. Some of them will fall into sexual impurity. Others will fall into every kind of evil practice (Romans 1:24-32). Without the God who revealed himself in and through Jesus Christ, nobody can overcome the power of temptation and sin!

(Question). 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, that in every tempting situation, God will give a way of escape, so that we can remain standing. What are some practical ways we can escape from temptations?

(S) *One way to escape temptation is to watch and to pray.* Jesus says, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." (Matthew 26:41). Especially when I am tired, I must be more alert against the possibility to get tempted; and I must keep on praying for God's grace not to fail the test.

A second way to escape temptation is to memorise Bible verses and use them. When Jesus was tempted, he used Bible verses that he had previously memorised, to overcome the temptations of the devil (Matthew 4).

A third way to escape temptation is to avoid wrong ambitions, like wanting to get rich. The Bible says, "people who want to get rich, fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction." (1 Timothy 6:9). I must learn to recognise tempting situations and avoid them.

A fourth way to escape temptation is to flee away from the temptation. When a woman tempted Joseph, he did not wait one second, but ran away as fast as he could. Sometimes a temptation is so strong, that the only way of escape is to run away. To run away from temptation is not cowardly, but very wise!

A fifth way to escape temptation is to resist the devil. The apostle Peter says, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith."

(1 Peter 5:8-9). When the devil makes sinful suggestions in my mind, then I resist him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and say, "Satan, you are a liar and your suggestions are destructive. In the name of Jesus go away."

(T) In Hebrews 4:15-16 we read, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Because Jesus himself experienced all kinds of temptations on earth, he understands our temptations. Therefore, when we pray to him, he will give us mercy for our failures and gracious help for our battles against temptations.

Let me summarise. When we rely on God, God will never permit us to be tempted by a temptation that is too strong for us and he will always give us a way to escape that temptation!

(S) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is “Assurance of victory”. Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is 1 Corinthians 10:13. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

(T) Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

(T+S) Assurance of victory. 1 Corinthians 10:13. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.

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(S) Assurance of victory. 1 Corinthians 10:13. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

(T) POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST MEMORISED BIBLE VERSES

Please review the last two Bible verses you have memorised without looking at your notebook.

(S) Series “Christian assurances”, verses 1-2.

Assurance of salvation. 1 John 5:11-13. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God, does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13.

Assurance of answered prayer. John 16:24. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:24.

(T) POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Daily review the last three memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and make disciples” and Internet on www etc.

Third. Listen on short wave radio every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to “Discipleship training on the air”.