

Fighting Temptation

Genesis 39:6-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+39%3A6-12&version=NIV>

“But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.” (vs 12b)

Though the Lord was indeed with Joseph, he continued to face trials and temptations. Things were going as best as one who was enslaved could hope for as Joseph was given a prominent place in the household of his master. This position also made him vulnerable. He became vulnerable to Potiphar’s wife who seemed to be fighting temptation and sin of her own. Faced with an open invitation from his master’s wife, Joseph continually remains loyal not only to Potiphar, but also to God.

Fighting temptation is hard. Whether it’s the temptation to eat something we know is not good for us, to purchase things we don’t need with money we don’t have, to inappropriately act out our anger, to indulge in thoughts and fantasies that are unholy, or another temptation, resisting temptation is not easy. Joseph makes it look easy as he runs from Potiphar’s wife even when there was no one around to witness it had he given into temptation. The reason Joseph is successful at resisting temptation is because God is with him. Joseph knows his God and he walks with the Lord. Therefore he not only desires to please God, but he stands in the power of God.

In 1 Corinthians 15 we are told “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Temptation is hard, but Christ has already won victory over sin. Furthermore, Christ has invited us to share in that victory. Next time you are faced with temptation, remember that you are already more than victorious in Christ and run away from sin in the power of Jesus.