

THE CURE FOR COMPLACENCY

Part 5 of Foundations 260. Luke 21-Acts 1; Luke 22:39-46.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 9, 2025.

COMPLACENCY LEADS TO COMPROMISE

We're in great spiritual danger when we think we don't need God's help.

- Spiritual complacency leads to compromise and collapse of faith.
- Complacency makes us self-sufficient, proud, and spiritually weak.
- The devil is looking for complacent Christians to deceive and destroy.

THE CONTEXT OF LUKE 22:39-46

After the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples left the city.

- They went to the Garden of Gethsemane, an olive grove where they had been sleeping every night that week.

LUKE 22:39-46

Luke 22:39-46 (CSB) He went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 When he reached the place, he told them, **“Pray that you may not fall into temptation.”** 41 Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and began to pray,

42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me — nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. 44 Being in anguish, he prayed more fervently, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. 45 When he got up from prayer and came to the disciples, he found them sleeping, exhausted from their grief. 46 “Why are you sleeping? ” he asked them. **“Get up and pray, so that you won't fall into temptation.”**

WHAT DID JESUS MEAN BY “TEMPTATION”?

1. Daily temptations to unbelief and ungodliness.

Luke 11:4 (CSB) “Do not bring us into temptation.”

- In this case, temptation means the daily kind of test or trial that causes a Christian to fall into unbelief or ungodliness.
- Jesus wants us to stand firm in the faith until the end.

2. Temptations to turn away from Jesus when life is careless or hard.

Luke 21:34-36 (CSB) “Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day (when Jesus returns) will come on you unexpectedly 35 like a trap. For it will come on all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

- Jesus wants us to pray for God’s strength to stay alert and stand firm in faith until the end so that we will not be condemned at the final judgment.
- Without God’s help, we will suffer spiritual collapse.

3. Temptations to deny Jesus to avoid trouble.

Luke 22:31-34 (CSB) Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” 33 “Lord,” he told him, “I’m ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” 34 “I tell you, Peter,” he said, “the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know me.”

- Peter’s faith failed, so we might think that prayer didn’t help him. Not true!
- Peter repented, he turned back to Jesus and was faithful for the rest of his life.

WHY IS TEMPTATION A BIG DEAL?

1. The temptation to fall away is severe.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (CSB) So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.

Hebrews 2:1 (CSB) ... we must pay attention all the more to what we have heard, so that we will not drift away.

- When we think it's easy to follow Jesus, that's when we're in the greatest danger of spiritual collapse.

2. The temptation to fall away may be satanic.

- Jesus told Peter that Satan had asked to sift him like wheat (Luke 22:31). The devil wanted to derail Peter's faith and commitment to Jesus
- And Satan has permission to sift us like wheat.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (CSB) Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. 9 Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

- He is smart, evil, and ruthless. He looks for cracks in our faith, difficulties in our lives, or doubts and fears that he can exploit.

2. The temptation to fall away is succeeding.

- It has always succeeded, even among the first Christians.

1 John 2:19 (CSB) They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us.

- We all know friends who have turned away from Jesus and the Christian faith.

CURE COMPLACENCY, PRAY!

Even in his final, anguished hours, Jesus made it a point to encourage his disciples to pray that they would not fall into temptation.

- Prayer is essential because we need God's grace and power to stand firm.
- There is no such thing as a prayer-less, casual Christian who is also strong and faithful to Jesus.

Cure complacency, pray!

- Pray the Lord's Prayer, "lead us not into temptation."
- Pray the Gethsemane prayer, "Father, give me strength to stand firm in faith and not fall into temptation."
- Pray the Book of Common Prayer: "Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance; govern and uphold them now and always."
- Pray the Gospel Armor Prayer (based on Ephesians 6:18): "Lord, give us power to persevere in faith until Jesus returns."
- Pray 1 Corinthians 16 prayer: "Father help us to stay alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous and self-controlled."

Third verse of Cowper's hymn, "What Various Hindrances We Meet."

Restraining prayer, we cease to fight;

Prayer makes the Christian's armor bright:

And Satan trembles when he sees

The weakest saint upon his knees."

Small group study guide: www.famousgod.com/study-guides

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's February 9th teaching and study guide.
- What were the highlights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

Discuss

- Read Luke 22:39-46 out loud. Describe your reaction to the passage.
- Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What is the context - see verse 10? What is the threat - see verses 11-12? What is the armor - see verses 13-18? What is the connection between prayer and standing firm?
- Read: Jude 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:6. Discuss.
- Share any personal testimony you have about the connection between prayer and standing firm.

Prayers

- Ask the Lord to form the Cornerstone into a praying people who devote time and space to prayer - both alone and together.
- Pray Colossians 1:9-13 for the group.