

# Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

## Subject: Prepare for Temptation: Proverbs 22:3

### Works That Bear Fruit

A farmer was showing his fine orchard to a friend who admired its neat and regular appearance. "But," said the friend, pointing to a peculiarly shaped tree, "if that were my tree I'd root it up in order to preserve the uniformity of the orchard." The farmer smiled and said that he was more interested in the fruit than in the form. "This tree," he said, "has yielded me more fruit than any of those trees that conform to a more regular pattern." Sometimes Christian workers may become so accustomed to doing things in what they consider the traditional or time-honored way that they forget to evaluate its productiveness.

Planning is an important first step in effecting biblical change, but planning alone will accomplish nothing. For a plan to be effective, it must be put to practice. A key to doing that is to understand the habits.

Habits are learned ways of living. A habit is created when something is done repeatedly until it becomes a pattern. Habits may be actions, attitudes, or patterns of thinking that have become so ingrained that they are second nature. Hebrews 5:14 for example, speaks of people who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil and 2 Peter 2:14 says that false teachers have a heart trained in greed.

These habits are a result of you changing your thinking patterns.

**A prudent (man) foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself (from it, until it has passed by,** Isaiah 4:6; 26:20; 32:2): but the simple pass on (apprehending nothing, and therefore not getting out of the way of the evil), and are punished - for their sinful inconsiderateness or foolhardihood. If the simple see the evil, yet they do not see it in its true magnitude. They are so hurried away by their passions that they recklessly pass on. The godly prudent, through spiritual instinct, guided by Scripture, along with experience, often foresee spiritual danger, and shun it. It is true wisdom to flee from coming wrath. So Noah, Hebrews 11:7. 'It is nature which teaches a wise man in fear to hide himself. But grace and faith teach him where. Where should the frightened child hide his head but in the bosom of his loving Father? where a Christian, but under the shadow of the wings of Christ, his Saviour?' (Hooker's 'Remedy against Fear.')

### The Power of Discipline

The power of discipline was not long ago illustrated at the House of Refuge on Randall's Island. But for it, 600 young boys would have been thrown into a panic and many lives lost. Although they were aroused out of slumber at two o'clock in the morning, the signal for fire drill was given and the well-disciplined lads fell to their places and were marched out of the building in

safety. If we are to do good work for humanity, we must discipline ourselves to regular effort. It is the steady onward push of the disciplined purpose that counts in the struggle of life.

### **The Enemy's Ground Is Not Good Testing Ground**

At an evangelistic meeting someone was converted. The next day one who was at the meeting saw the newly converted man put his hand into a chicken coop. "Say," called the older Christian, "I thought you were converted last night." Of course, it was evident that he was about to steal a chicken. His answer was, "I was converted sir, certainly I am, but I am just trying out the strength of my resolution." The wise reply of the older Christian was, "It is safer to fight Satan on your own ground than on his."

### **Seat Belts Save Lives**

Temptation is a pretty common experience—and our batting average for resisting it is not always impressive.

Our experiences are a lot like the seat belts on cars a few years ago. If we did not fasten them, that infernal buzzer kept annoying us. We knew that the seat belts were not made to hurt us or unnecessarily restrict us. They were there to keep us safe, and the buzzer was our friend. But instead of doing what we knew was probably best for us, we would stick the belts behind us, fasten them and thus shut off the buzzer that was reminding us to do the safe thing.

We Christians know deep down inside what is right. We even know that the right thing is the best thing for us. And God coaches us from the inside with His "buzzer," the Holy Spirit, to help us resist temptation. But we often choose to ignore the buzzer and look for a way to shut it off. We ignore God's signal and follow our own, even though experience shows us that things get messed up when we do not listen to Him. We need to understand a little more about how Satan uses temptation and how we can win the battle. An understanding of the kinds of strategies Satan uses to defeat us can help us overcome temptation.

Planning also involves deciding how to handle temptation before it comes. Temptation is easier to face if we have decided in advance how to respond to it.

A plan for biblical response to temptation might include the following items:

1. Recognize and acknowledge in the earliest stages of temptation that you are being tempted.
2. Quickly pray and ask God for help for His help to resist.
3. If possible remove yourself immediately from the source of temptation.
4. Identify the unbiblical desire that would be served by yielding to the temptation.
5. Quote and meditate on appropriate Scripture.
6. Remind yourself of God's presence, power, and promises.
7. Reflect on the purpose of Christ's death.

8. Mentally and verbally make a commitment to do the godly thing.
9. Get busy with a mind- engaging, godly activity.
10. Call a godly friend and ask for help.
11. Repeat key aspects of this temptation plan until the power of the temptation is reduced

Seen and unseen evils of life: -- The great mass of mankind live at hazard, so far as the final end of life is concerned. No certain destination is in their view, nor is their life guided by any central principle. There is a right object at which to aim, a high purpose that should be the centre of every human life, giving it unity and strength.

I. CONSIDER THE NATURE OF PROVIDENCE IN THE CONDUCT OF LIFE. Prudence and providence have a close kinship. The word providence expresses the special idea or particular act of providing, while prudence denotes the foresight which shows itself in habit, or the manner of providing.

1. Here is the lowest and basest kind of prudence that stands in opposition to a higher moral life. This is an evil prudence. Self is at the centre of it.

2. Then there is a prudence which might be called neutral, and which is not incompatible with spiritual growth.

3. There is a prudence that is subservient to the higher principle itself. True religion and genuine prudence are allied.

II. OBSERVE THE VALUE OF PRUDENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF LIFE. The prudent man can look behind and before, can estimate probabilities, can consider cause and effect. He decries the future, and is warned. He needs his prudence in the secular affairs of the world. The moral fibre of a man has much more to do with his material surroundings and well-being than many persons seem to think. The prudent man avoids temptations that may be too much for his moral strength.

III. THE DOOM OF THOUGHTLESSNESS. Recklessness brings on ruin. Punishment is not arbitrary, but necessary.

### **Fighting Temptation**

A believer's watchfulness is like that of a soldier. A sentinel posted on the walls, when he discerns a hostile party advancing, does not attempt to make head against them himself, but informs his commanding officer of the enemy's approach, and leaves him to take the proper measures against the foe. So the Christian does not attempt to fight temptation in his own strength; his watchfulness lies in observing its approach, and in telling God of it by prayer.