Diving Deeper into Discipleship

July 18, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Teach Us to Pray: The Avoidance of Temptation

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- What kinds of evil desires are you most often tempted by? How are you commonly "dragged away" by those temptations?
- Which is a bigger area of growth for you: an ongoing awareness of temptation, or prayerful preparation for temptation?
- When you consider your own struggles with temptation, do they create feelings of shame within you?
- Ask God to give you a sense of contentment with what you already have, and a hunger for whatever He has for you that is better than what your temptations might draw you toward.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Genesis 3:1-7** | What mistakes do you think Adam and Eve made when they faced temptation in the garden?
- **Psalm 26:2** | According to this verse, what might be happening during times when we feel tempted or tested?
- **1 Timothy 6:6-10** | In what ways does money, specifically, present us with temptations?

Self-Care Discipline

July Discipline: Corporate Guidance

Spiritual Direction | from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg 185-186

- A personal experience of the Emmanuel presence of Jesus, that He has come to guide His people Himself, leading them in definite and immediate ways, is a deeply profound thing. But, it is not sufficient. Individual guidance must yield to corporate guidance. There must also come a knowledge of the direct, active, immediate leading of the Spirit together. Perhaps the preoccupation with private guidance alone in Western cultures is the product of their emphasis on individualism. The people of God have not always been so.
- Spiritual direction is an ancient practice that is not seen in many church circles today. But the process is invaluable. What is the purpose of a spiritual director? To lead us to our real Director. He or she is the means of God to open the path to the inward teaching of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual direction does not deal only with a small corner of our lives. We do not visit one to take care of our spirit like we would go to a heart doctor to take care of our heart. Spiritual direction is concerned with the whole person and the interrelationship with all of life. Consider if a spiritual director would be beneficial for you.

Notes