

FORTY-ONE DAYS

Pause, Part 1

August 28th, 2011

When we are tempted, we must begin to recognize two things:

1. There is always more at stake than what we think
2. The real issue isn't just a temptation or self control, it's an issue of my confidence in God

When we don't factor this into our thinking, it is the reason why you can't break free from certain addictions and/or remove yourself from the environment of certain temptations

Christians aren't so "good." They learned to factor in their confidence in God into everyday life. This has impacted the degree to which temptation has been able to take hold in their life

Matthew 3:16 – Matthew 4:3

Jesus was "led" into the desert for the primary purpose of being tempted

The three temptations Jesus faced all have to do with His confidence in God, and they are behind every temptation you'll face in your life

1st temptation: Jesus was tempted to meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way

2nd temptation: Jesus was tempted to leverage and use God for His own ends

3rd temptation: Jesus was tempted to take a short-cut - to do the right thing in the wrong way

As you discover what's behind these 3 temptations, what they do and why, it will diminish the significance and power of temptation in your life

Temptation will never go away in your life – it's part of life

Prayerfully you'll find the motivation and energy to "pause" when dealing with temptation

When Christ came and died for our sin, He didn't come to just pay for our sin – He also came to free us from the power of sin

Romans 6:14

What hung in the balance of Christ's decision to say "no" to Satan and temptation was you; it was Christ's opportunity to remain the sinless son of God

Every time you are tempted 3 things are at stake:

1. Your future
2. Someone else's future
3. Your faith

It is easy to see the potential future consequences of sin in someone's life, but not your own

Everyone under your authority has the potential to suffer because of your inability to deal successfully with temptation

Every time you sin, you damage your relationship to God, your accountability to God, and your connection to God

What's at stake is your confidence in God – God's love for you, His care for you, and God's presence in your life

You don't think your way away from God, you behave your way away from God because sin breaks confidence with God

Every time you sin, you make a statement: "God, you can't be trusted"

When tempted, pause and say, "Temptation, you will not steal my future, you will not steal my family, you will not steal my faith."

If you are young, you have a lot of future at stake

If you are old, you have a lot of legacy at stake

My Next Step Today Is:

- My prayer, "God, help me begin to really see what's going on behind the scenes when I am tempted, and help me learn to truly trust and have confidence in You."
- My prayer, "God, teach me to begin to 'pause' before giving in to temptation and say, "Temptation, you will not steal my future, you will not steal my family, you will not steal my faith."
- I can't make the beach baptism, but I would like to be baptized on Sunday, Sept 18th
- I am interested in learning more about working with New Hope and South Bay Community Services on putting food boxes together on Tues, Sept 13th