

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at [www.aldenson.com](http://www.aldenson.com). Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

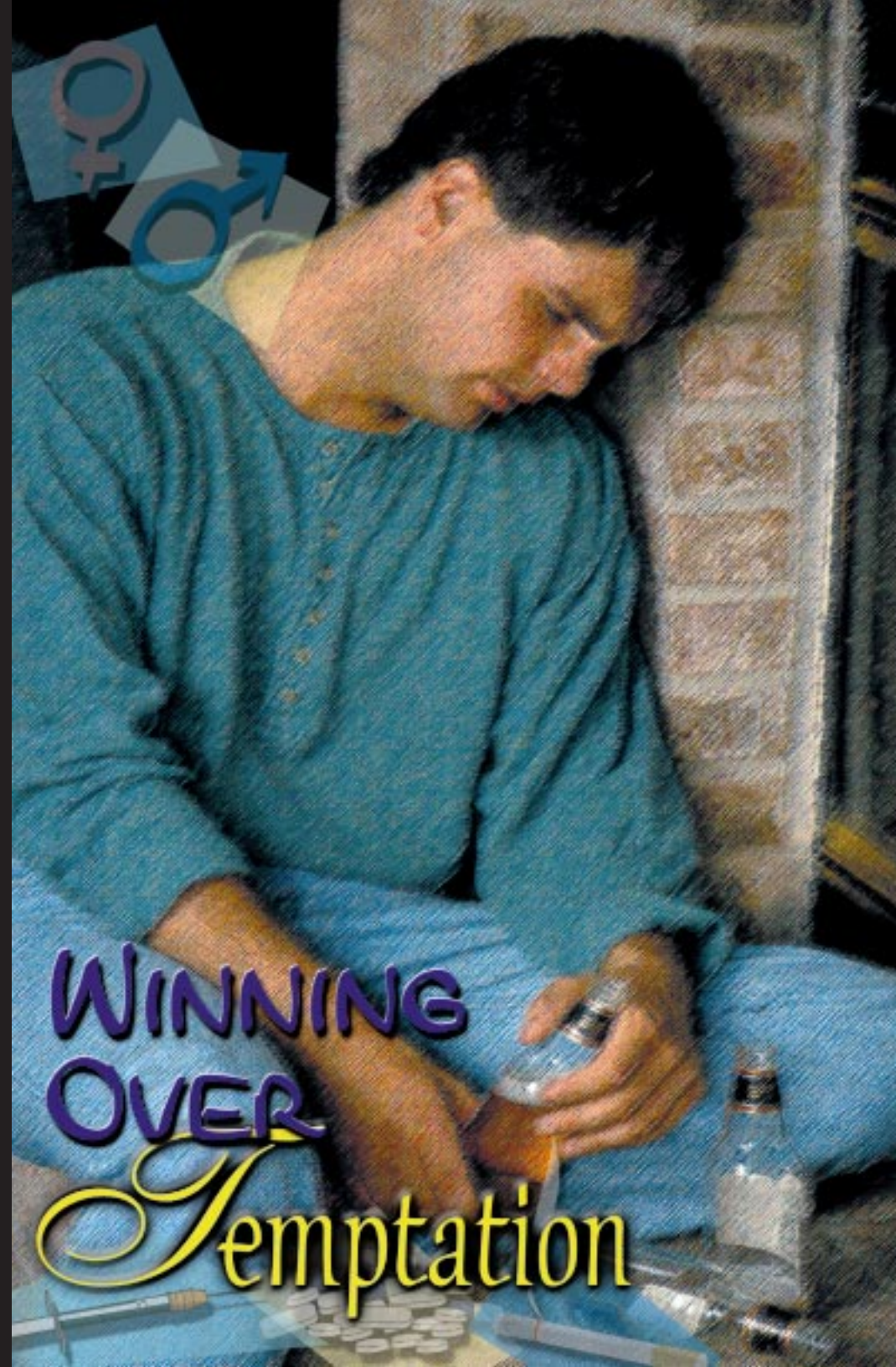
Sincerely,



**An Outreach of Celebration Ministries**

The Al Denson Show  
Box 220 Grapevine, TX 76099

Email: [aldenson@aol.com](mailto:aldenson@aol.com)  
Web Site: [www.aldenson.com](http://www.aldenson.com)



WINNING  
OVER  
Temptation



Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

Write Al at: Box 220 Grapevine, TX 76099  
Email: [aldenson@aol.com](mailto:aldenson@aol.com) Web Site: [www.aldenson.com](http://www.aldenson.com)

# WINNING OVER Temptation

Chances are if you are reading this booklet, temptation is something you have not handled very successfully up until now. In fact, you may have given into temptation so many times that you feel winning over temptation is hopeless for you. Perhaps you could use a dose of hope and encouragement before we talk about why you are losing this battle.

The Bible says in I Corinthians 10:13, “Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And no temptation (or problem) is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it, for He has promised this and will do what He says. He will show you how to escape temptation’s power so that you can bear up patiently against it.”

Regardless what kind of temptation you are battling, you may be facing the greatest temptation of all right now—the temptation to give up, to surrender to the enemy you are fighting. God wants to give you the power to overcome temptation, but you must turn to Him for help. He can supernaturally deliver you from the guilt and hopelessness you feel.

God has confidence in you, even if you have none in yourself. He says in this verse that NOTHING will come your way that is so strong you cannot stand up against it. God

believes in your ability to fight, to cope, and to win. If you don’t believe in God as confidently as He believes in you, then simply ask Him for the courage and the faith you need to trust Him.

Remember the words of I Corinthians

10:13, “...You can trust God to keep the temptation (or problem) from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it, for he has promised this and He will do what He says.” Jesus said that heaven and earth will pass away but God’s words will stand for ever. We just read God’s words and they will stand forever as the solid, unmovable truth. God

says you can make it, so you can.

There are some things you need to know about temptation. Here is the most important one: Temptation itself is not a sin—yielding to temptation is the sin. Temptation is Satan’s invitation to you to commit an act of sin. The whole purpose of temptation is to convince you to make the choice to violate God’s Word.

You see, if you have committed your life to Jesus Christ, Satan has lost your soul. Your life now belongs to God, and Satan has lost you forever. But this doesn’t mean Satan has given up on you. If he can’t own you, the next best thing he can do is attack you with temptation in hopes you will say yes to sin, and damage your usefulness to God.

NOTHING will  
come your way  
that is so strong  
you cannot stand  
up against it.

## Don't allow Satan to put you on a guilt trip simply because tempting thoughts enter your mind.

If you have been saved, you are free in Christ. You have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and set free from the bondage of sin. Your sin debt has been paid and you are no longer condemned. You have been pardoned and given a new life in Christ. The only thing left for Satan to do is to target your weaknesses and tempt you to sin. If he can bring guilt and defeat into your life, he can make you miserable and keep you from being usable to God.

Don't allow Satan to put you on a guilt trip simply because tempting thoughts enter your mind. Jesus was tempted, the Bible says, but never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). It is not a sin to be tempted. Temptation is just the "bait" Satan uses to entice you to sin. After you are tempted, it is your own lust that pushes you to sin.

For example, say a beautiful woman drives up to a man's house in a stolen sports car and

offers him the ride of his life. Would he be guilty of anything just because the car pulled up in his yard? No, of course not. At this point he could choose to walk away from temptation and all would be well. But suppose instead, he chooses to linger on his porch and stare at the gorgeous woman and the great car. Now the yellow lights would be flashing to warn him there is trouble ahead. Next, as the man begins to fantasize about being with her in that great car, temptation would become lust and sin would be conceived. Then, when he acts on his lust by getting into the stolen car and driving away into the sunset with the beautiful woman, lust would have given birth to sin.

Many people make jokes about their lust, but Jesus doesn't take this lightly. He said in Matthew 5:28 that looking at a person and imagining yourself to be sexually involved is as serious as actually committing the act.

Obviously, the consequences of committing the act are more serious than the consequences of the thought, but they are both sin, and both serious because Jesus knew that thoughts give birth to actions.

Temptation always begins with a thought. Once your mind focuses and dwells on a tempting thought, you are in real danger of going through with it. You may try to talk yourself out of it. You may even argue with yourself, but it is difficult to debate yourself out of a desire. Please understand that all of your desires are not necessarily wrong. The

temptation Satan always uses is to get you to fulfill those desires in the wrong way. He also tells you that the only way to make the desire go away is to give into it, but that is a lie. Every time you give into temptation the desires will only be stronger the next time.

No matter how long you walk with God or how strong a Christian you are, you will always have to deal with temptation. Be prepared to deal with it at every turn but don't fear temptation. Just because it comes into your life doesn't mean you have to be defeated by it, and just because you have failed before doesn't mean that you will again. The Bible says in James 4:7, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." "Resist" is a defensive term. It means that you are to stand firm, fearlessly look the devil in the eye, and tell him in Jesus' name to beat it! The Bible promises when you do, he will run from you!

The very first temptation was to doubt the truthfulness of the word of God. Remember Satan said to Eve, "has God not said?" Satan also used this same trick on Jesus when he tempted Him in the wilderness. His tactics haven't changed at all—Satan is still trying to tempt you to doubt the Word of God today. The most crucial issue in Christianity is the trustworthiness of the Word of God. Whether or not you ever win over temptation comes down to believing God. Not believing "in" God, but believing God. If you are losing the battle with temptation, it is because you are believing the

wrong things. You are either believing Satan or you are not believing God.

There are seven big lies Satan tells you concerning temptation. Let's review these and compare the lies to the facts of God's Word.

**Lie #1:** Giving into the temptation will make you happier and more fulfilled.

**Fact:** God never created you to be fulfilled by anything or anyone but himself.

**Lie #2:** Giving into temptation will make the desire go away.

**Fact:** Giving into temptation is feeding your lust and anything you feed will always grow.

**Lie #3:** Giving in just this once won't hurt.

**Fact:** Sin is always hurtful and destructive. Once you have given into temptation you have made it a thousand times easier to give in again.

**Lie #4:** Now that you have given into temptation you have ruined your life and destroyed your usefulness to God, so you might as well keep giving in.

**Fact:** God's message for you will always be one of forgiveness, grace, and restoration. Yes, there are consequences to pay for your wrong choices, but God can and will resurrect your usefulness to Him in response to your repentance.



Lie #5: Being tempted is a sin.

Fact: In Hebrews 4:15 the Bible says that Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are but was without sin.

Lie #6: God is displeased with me when I am tempted.

Fact: If you are a Christian, God can never be displeased with you because you are “in Christ.” God wasn’t displeased with Jesus when He was tempted so He can’t be displeased with you.

Lie #7: If I were spiritually mature, I wouldn’t be tempted.

Fact: Jesus Christ was the most spiritually mature person who ever lived and He was tempted. If we were never tempted we would become self-sufficient and forget where our strength and power come from.

Matthew 4:1-11 records Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness by Satan. It says, “then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘it is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the son of God,’ he said,

‘throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command His angels concerning You, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give to you,’ he said, ‘If You will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away from Me Satan! For it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’ Then the devil left Him, and the angels came and attended Him.”

In this experience Jesus showed you several things you need to know about dealing with your enemy.

1. Satan questions your identity.

Before Satan tempts your flesh, he will tempt you to doubt or forget who you are. The last thing Jesus heard in Matthew 3 was His Heavenly Father saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well-pleased.” The next words Jesus hears are Satan’s, “If You are the Son of God...” This is the same way Satan tries to weaken you before he tempts you; he tries to get you to doubt or forget who you are. The Bible says if you are a Christian, you are in Christ. Because you have a new identity, you are now holy, pure, righteous, blameless, and worthy—a child of the King. If Satan can get you to doubt, forget, or deny these facts, then you won’t act like what God says you are, and you will be more likely

to give into the temptation Satan is about to bring your way.

2. Satan doesn’t give up easily.

He came after the Son of God three times. If he was that persistent with Jesus, imagine how he will keep coming after you.

3. God limits Satan’s power.

When he tempted Jesus to jump off the highest point of the temple and Jesus refused, Satan couldn’t push Him off. The devil can’t MAKE you do anything you don’t choose to do.

4. God’s Word is our offensive weapon.

Jesus demonstrated how we are to deal with Satan. Winning over temptation is always going to be about playing offense. The Word of God is our offensive weapon against our enemy.

If you, too, are serious about winning over temptation, the two keys to victory are found in these verses in God’s Word:

Romans 12:1-2 says, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve of what God’s will is, His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

1. Present, offer, yield your body to God.

This means that you are to dedicate yourself to God in a deliberate and intentional manner. Before you can win over temptation, you must understand that your body belongs to God. The Bible says in I Corinthians 6:19-20, “...You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.” Christ died for your sins and His blood redeemed you.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

# God promises to ...

Years ago when purchases were made at the local grocery store or the gas station, the merchant would give you S&H Green Stamps. The number of stamps you would get was determined by the amount of money you spent. You would take the stamps home and paste them in books.

There was an S&H catalog that was filled with all sorts of things you could exchange for your books of Green Stamps. Whenever you saved up enough stamps, you could take them to an “S&H Redemption Center.” There you would exchange the books of stamps for the gift you wanted. In other words, you were “redeeming” your stamps for something of much greater value.

When you gave your heart and life to Jesus, He redeemed you. He exchanged your old, sinful, broken life for His life. If you are a Christian, you belong to Him. Your body is not your own; Jesus redeemed it with His own blood. So, now it does matter what you do with His property. Understanding this fact will help you view temptation differently.

2. Be transformed by the “renewing of your mind.”

The Bible tells you not to let the world squeeze you into its own mold. In other words, don't be like the world in the way you think and live your life, but rather be transformed into the image of Christ by having your mind renewed. To win over temptation you must guard what you feed your mind and begin to think God's thoughts. The Bible says

in Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep in perfect peace, him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”

If you are struggling with thoughts of temptation, commit your mind and your thoughts to God every day. Determine with an act of your will to let God have total control of your thoughts and to keep your mind fixed on Him. Remember, whatever you feed is going to grow, and whatever you starve is going to die.

The Bible says in I Corinthians 10:13, “...He will show you how to escape temptation's power so that you can bear up patiently against it.” God promises to make a way for you to escape temptation when it comes. God usually does this by using caution lights. In the Old Testament King David is a good example of someone who ignored the flashing yellow lights in his life. Let's take a look at what these caution lights were.

1. Wrong place—wrong time

In II Samuel 11:1 it says, “In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army...But David remained in Jerusalem.”

David's first mistake was being where he wasn't supposed to be. As the leader of the army he should have been with his soldiers. He made an irresponsible decision which put him in a place he shouldn't have been. If you want to stay out of temptation's way, don't be where you shouldn't be.

2. The long look

II Samuel 11:2 says, “One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”

David had to have realized this was a bath scene and that people who are bathing don't wear clothes. He should have looked away immediately but not only did he not do this, he looked long enough to know the woman was very beautiful. The long look was a big mistake.



... make a way for you  
to escape temptation  
when it comes.

3. Curiosity—caution

II Samuel 11:3 says, “and David sent someone to find out about her...”

Curiosity killed the cat, and it ought to have been a caution light for David. But he ignored it and inquired about the beautiful woman he had seen.

4. This is a “no-no”

II Samuel 11:3 goes on to say, “The man said, ‘Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?’”

The second David found out the naked lady was someone else's wife, he should have said, “No way—sorry I asked!” Anytime we are tempted to go against God's Word, it should be a very bright, blinking caution light.

## 5. Bringing home trouble

II Samuel 11:4 records one of the saddest statements in the Bible. It says, "Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her." David still has time to turn back but he decides to bring the temptation right into his very presence. Wanting to bring it nearer to him should have been a caution light, but again he ignores a way of escape and David ends up committing a sin that would hurt him, his nation, and his family for generations to come.

David, the little Shepard boy who killed the mighty giant, Goliath, who penned the Psalms, and whom God called, "a man after My own heart," fell because he wasn't actively looking for the way of escape from temptation.

There was another Old Testament man of God named Joseph who won over temptation. You may remember the story in Genesis 37 and 39 of Joseph being sold into slavery by his older brothers. He was taken into the foreign land of Egypt and eventually ended up as a servant in the home of a man named Potiphar. Potiphar was a very important man because he was the captain of Pharaoh's bodyguards.

Joseph worked hard and did a good job for Potiphar. The Bible says that Joseph found favor with Potiphar and as a result, he made Joseph the overseer of his house. That meant Joseph was in charge of everything.

The Bible also says that Joseph was a very

handsome young man and in Genesis 39:7 it says, "after his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!'" Even though Joseph was young, handsome, away from home in a foreign land, spending his life as a slave, and Potiphar's wife was probably very beautiful (not to mention willing and available), Joseph said no.

Genesis 39:8-9 says, "But he refused. 'With me in charge,' he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?'" "He refused"—those are great words. Joseph realized it was a choice he could make, it was an act of his will. If Joseph had tried to make excuses or rationalize he could have probably made a pretty good case as to why he should have given in to this woman. But the basis of his decision was that he could not participate in wickedness and sin against Potiphar and against God. Joseph had determined years earlier what the definition of sin was. He never wavered because he made up his mind ahead of time what the answer would be before the question was ever asked.

The Bible says that this woman wouldn't take "no" for an answer. In verse 10 it says that she tempted Joseph day after day. Not only did

Joseph keep turning her down, but he took extra precautions and made sure he wasn't ever alone with her. Verse 11-12 say, "One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, 'Come to bed with me!'" But he let his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house."

It is interesting that in the New Testament, which was written a long time after Joseph lived, we are told to "Flee immorality" (I Corinthians 6:18). This is exactly what

...it's not about getting out after you have allowed yourself to be lured in, it's about staying out of temptation's way.

Joseph did. When temptation finally reached out and literally took the clothes from his body, Joseph ran in the other direction. This too, is a choice you can make.

Mark Twain once wrote, "It's easier to stay out than to get out." He was very right. Winning over temptation is not about getting out after you have allowed yourself to be lured in, it's about staying out of temptation's way. When Satan drops the bait, don't swim around and look at it. Don't think about it and smell it. Don't decide just to take a little nibble. If you do, the next thing you know, Satan will be reeling you into his boat.

I Peter 1:14-15 says, "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy." Are you serious about winning your battle over temptation? Ask God to help you love what He loves and hate what He hates—to see all the things that are tempting you through His eyes. Consistently make the things of the Lord your focus, and eventually you will be so drawn to what is good and holy, that sin will lose much of its appeal and allure.

There is a little chorus that puts it like this:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face.  
And the things of the earth will grow  
strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.