**YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION (#3)**

***Let Us Stand and Sing***

Horatio Richmond Palmer (1834 – 1907) was a prolific song writer and musician. He wrote hymns like *Angry Words*, *Master The Tempest Is Raging*, and *Come Sinner Come*. But the spiritual song that has touched the hearts and edified the souls of millions is *Yield Not To Temptation*. He wrote this great hymn in 1868 when in the prime of his youth (age 34).

Jesus, at nearly the same age, was facing the greatest trial of His life. So far, so good. He had for 33 years resisted the devil, causing Satan to “*depart from Him until an opportune time*” (Lk. 4:13). Well, that opportune time had now come. His once popular ministry, which had attracted thousands, had suddenly (at least from outward appearances) become derailed and seemed to have become a catastrophic train wreck (“*many of His disciples turned and walked no more with Him*” – Jn. 6:66). His own apostles, up to the very end, were still fighting for position in the coming kingdom (Matt. 20:21-23). Even one of His chosen ones was plotting His arrest (Jn. 13:18-30). The night with ebon pinion (a mystery writer would put it, “It was a dark and stormy night”) was upon Jesus. He was about to enter into His *passion* (Latin for “suffering”).

After fulfilling His “*fervent desire to eat this Passover with you before I suffer*” (Lk. 22:15) Jesus led them as “*they sung a hymn*” before heading to the Mount of Olives and to His destiny with Golgotha (Matt. 26:30). What hymn would Jesus wish to sing as He was about to face His greatest temptation? What psalm would give comfort as He falls prostrate in bloody sweat and cries for His Father to “*let this cup pass from Me*?” We are not told what they sang, but many scholars believe they sang the Hallel psalms (Psa. 114-118) sung at Passover.

Picture this. Entering into what Satan surely believed was his “trap” (his “*opportune time*” to tempt Jesus) the Lord starts singing. Listen to some of the words He possibly (yea, probably) sung from Psalm 118,

​1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
5 I called on the LORD in distress; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.
6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?
13 You pushed me violently, that I might fall, But the LORD helped me.
14 The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.
17 I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD.
22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.
23 This was the LORD’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.
24 This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.
29 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Jesus, facing temptation, and having committed to memory God’s word to resist temptation (Matt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13), walks through the dark night singing with grace in His heart to God (Col. 3:16). Being “*filled with the Spirit*” He now makes melody in His heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:18-19). Singing became His comforter as the tempter hurled all his fiery darts to cause Christ to sin. Singing hymns gave Him strength to overcome. Brethren, if it strengthened the heart of Christ, then should it not be used to strengthen our hearts during our temptations too.

How can it be that we are “*able to stand against the wiles of the devil… against principalities and powers and the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 6:11-13)?

We resist the devil by the weapons God has put into our armor. Weapons like fellowship with our brethren (see Monday’s article), quoting and trusting in the Scriptures (see Tuesday’s article), and now singing hymns in our heart to the Lord. But what hymns? There are literally hundreds to give us strength in the midst of trials. I cannot tell you how many times I have begun singing to help me push through temptations that were almost unbearable. Let me give you a few I have used as my go-to hymns when facing the wiles of the devil:

**Yield not to temptation**, for yielding is sin, each victory will help you, some other to win.
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue, look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through. (H. R. Palmer)

**A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord**, He taketh my burden away;
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved, He giveth me strength as my day. (Fanny J. Crosby)

**A mighty fortress is our God**, a bulwark never failing Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe His craft and pow’r are great, and, armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing. Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God’s own choosing; Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He!
The Lord of hosts His name, from age to age the same, And He must win the battle! (Martin Luther)

**What a friend we have in Jesus**, All our sins and griefs to bear;
 What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer.

Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer. (George Scriven)

**Be with me, Lord** I cannot live without Thee, I dare not try to take one step alone,

I cannot bear the loads of life, unaided, I need Thy strength to lean myself upon.

Be with me, Lord, and then if dangers threaten, If storms of trial burst above my head,

If lashing seas leap everywhere about me, They cannot harm, or make my heart afraid.

Be with me, Lord, when loveliness o'ertakes me, When I must weep amid the fires of pain,

And when shall come the hour of "my departure" For "worlds unknown," O Lord, be with me then. (T.O.Chisholm)

Can I now ask you a favor? What hymns do you sing when “storms of trial burst above my head?” I would love to know what songs in the night “carry you through?”

Let us stand and sing. - Rick