Text: I Corinthians 10:12-14
Title: "High Definition Living … Temptation's Lies"

INTRODUCTION

ILLUSTRATION – There was an amazing story in the paper last week about some parents, Tom and Natalie Meilinger from up in Chicago who had purchased a video baby monitor to keep an eye on their little 3-month-old Jack. Something strange appeared on the video screen of the monitor last week. As they looked at it closer they realized they were looking at the black-and-white video feed from inside the space shuttle Atlantis, hundreds of miles up in space. Can you imagine what went through the minds of Tom and Natalie as they stared at the baby monitor? "Uh, Houston, we have a problem. There's a 3-month-old baby that snuck on board."

> Actually, the Meilinger's baby monitor has two channels. On one of them they could keep an eye on little Jack in his crib. But when they switch it to the other channel they could keep an eye on what was happening in the heavens.
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> I thought, wouldn't it be cool to have the ability to not just watch what was happening with our kids on the earthly scene, but to also be able to see what was happening on the heavenly scene … to be able to see what our kids are doing with their lives, but also to see what God is doing in their lives.

On this Fathers Day 2007 that's a great reminder to us of the duty of fathers to be leaders in their homes to insure that their homes fit into God's will and purpose for their families. God's Word is filled with great examples of men and fathers who took this seriously and some who didn't.

Open your Bibles to I Corinthians 10:12-14. Next I'm week, and maybe the week after, I will move on to I Corinthians 11 and I'll be talking about what the Bible says about feminism, gay and lesbianism, gender roles, etc. If you have a liberal friend that you want to really make mad, bring them with you next week. No seriously, there's a lot of confusion today in culture and in the church about the roles that men and women should have. And the Bible speaks very clearly to these things, as we'll see next week.

> Today I'm finishing this series of messages that I've entitled "High Definition Living." We've been talking about the living in such as way as to clearly display God's glory in our lives.
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> I Corinthians 8-10 can be summarized by I Corinthians 10:31. Can you still repeat it from memory?
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> **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**

That's one of the great challenges of life for believers, and it's touched on a various places in the Bible. For instance I like the way The Message paraphrase puts I Corinthians 6:19-20.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (The Message) – "Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? … So let people see God in and through your body."

The fact is that every day, and, in fact, many times every day, we will be tempted to live as though we owned our bodies … as though we call the shots, and not God. That's what happened to the Israelites as they were traveling in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. Last week we saw how they fell into the sins of idolatry, sexual immorality, rebellion and grumbling. And as a result tens of thousands of them perished in the wilderness. And I Corinthians 10 tells us we're supposed to learn from what happened to those whom he calls in 10:1 "our forefathers."

> Now that word generally means "ancestors." But embedded in that word is the word "fathers." There's not getting around the fact that God puts a lot on the shoulders of men, husbands and fathers. As it goes with the men, the fathers, so it goes with the family. And in this instance, it was a tragedy because the fathers didn't follow the will of the Lord.

The Israelites had every opportunity, every advantage, and they fell short because they didn't obey the Lord. And the same temptations were present in Corinth, and they're present today … idolatry, sexual immorality, grumbling, complaining and a host of other sins. And we have to know how to handle temptation when it comes our way.

Read I Corinthians 10:12-14.

Now go back to v.12. Notice that Paul begins by saying "if you think…" There we have an important piece of information for this battle with temptation … a huge part of what happens in the experience of temptation occurs in the mind where Satan is able to influence the thoughts we think. And since Satan is the "father of lies" you can be sure that he will throw thoughts and ideas at you to try to get you to sin.

So, when temptation comes our way, we need to understand the lies that Satan will throw at us. Here's the first lie we need to recognize:

1. THAT COULD NEVER <u>HAPPEN</u> TO ME.

ILLUSTRATION – Last week I was reading some of a message that Dr. Jimmy Draper preached at the S.B.C. in San Antonio. Dr. Draper is a retired pastor that I admire a great deal; he has spoken here in our church. Jimmy told of how that there was a time in his ministry that he was absolutely sure that he could never even be tempted to be unfaithful to his wife, Carol Anne. But there was a young lady in his church who came to him for counseling on one occasion, and Jimmy said that he began to have feelings that he never thought he could have. He said that God opened up his heart to help him see that the flesh was still a powerful force to reckon with. God was good to help Jimmy see that he needed to guard his heart because the Bible says…

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV) – "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

That's the first lie of temptation. Here's the second one:

2. I'M THE <u>ONLY</u> <u>ONE</u> GOING THROUGH THIS.

Sometimes we can think that no one has struggled with what we're struggling with … or to the degree that we are struggling with it. There may be times when we think no one has felt such intense pressure to give in to a particular temptation as we are feeling right now.

Notice how Paul describes the approach of temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13a (NIV) – "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man …"

Temptation "seizes" us. That's a big word in the Bible and it's used many different ways. But it carries the meaning of being grabbed or being taken captive.

> Note: This would be a good time for me to remind you that temptation is not sin. Sometimes we feel guilty because we are tempted in some way. No, temptation isn't sin. It only becomes sin as James describes…
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> **James 1:14 (NIV) - but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.**

But you need to know that temptation is common to us all. In fact the Bible says that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are tempted … *every* way.

The reason this is such a hideous lie is that it can cause us to think that no one has ever faced temptation like this, and we are in its grip and we're bound to fall.

No! Be encouraged that others have gone through what you are going through, and they have emerged successfully.

But temptation's lies don't end there. Here's another one:

3. GOD HAS <u>ABANDONED</u> ME.

Temptation can be a dark experience if we don't think correctly. We can begin to think, falsely, that God is not in the picture here. I'm in this dark place all alone, and it's all up to me … and if you're feeling weak, you may think there's no hope of fighting off this temptation.

Listen …

1 Corinthians 10:13b (NIV) – "And God is faithful…"

The Bible tells us that God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone. He's not the source of the temptation, but He is there with us in the midst of it to give us strength as we put our trust in Him. God is faithful! And He will demonstrate that fact in the midst of temptation.

There's another lie to watch out for:

4. I'M <u>TRAPPED</u> AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT.

God is faithful; and as powerful as Satan and your flesh can be, God is more powerful. He is working in the midst of your temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13c (NIV) – "(God) will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

Now God doesn't remove the temptation; He provides a way out so we can "stand up under it." We want God to make it easy … "Take this temptation away." No, God will provide a "way out." That phrase comes from a situation in the world of warfare where an army is trapped in a place where there seems no way out, then suddenly a way is discovered where the army could escape the assault, and continue to fight.

Don't swallow the lie of Satan that you are so trapped in this that you could never come out victorious.

ILLUSTRATION – At the end of the newest Spiderman movie Peter Parker, who is the Spiderman, is reflecting on the events that have happened. There were choices that he had to make. Choices that his friend and sometimes nemesis Harry had to make … choices others had to make. But in looking back on all that here is what Peter has learned: "Whatever comes our way, whatever battle we have raging inside us, we always have a choice … It's the choices that make us who we are, and we can always choose to do what's right."

And with God's help, that is the truth.

CONCLUSION

You know sin is a very real force in our lives and in our world. We battle it every day.

EXAMPLE: I'm reminded of an OT father who understood what enemy sin was to God's people. His name was Job, and the Bible says that early each morning that Job would offer a sacrifice for each of his children thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." What a great example of a godly father standing in the gap for his family in the fierce struggle with sin.

But you know, as a NT dad, I don't have to offer sacrifices for my forgiveness, or the forgiveness of my children. Why? Because Jesus died on the cross of Calvary and provided the sacrifice necessary for our sins to be forgiven when we put our trust in Him. That is the beautiful picture of the Lord's Supper. Today we're going to close our worship together by sharing in the Lord's Supper.