

Grace Group Discipleship Guide



"Stand"

For the week of October 15 - 21, 2017

Main Thought:

Our spiritual enemy opposes us before breakthrough moments in our lives. He tries to deceive us by causing us to doubt that we belong to God and His family. He then tempts us to sin in the following areas in order to undermine confidence in our God-given abilities:

- Appetites: Excessive Addiction to sex, alcohol, drugs, and etc.
- Affluence: Extreme attachment to money, influence, and possessions.
- Arrogance: Being overly proud and needing to control.

These areas, when used according to God's Word, are beneficial. When taken to excess, they replace God, His priorities, and are harmful. We conquer temptation by redirecting our thoughts and conversation to other healthy areas. Focusing on the temptation by saying "I will not do this or that" only strengthens the temptation because it is in our purview. When tempted: displace, replace and redirect with God's Word. On the other hand, when demonic attack is invasive, personal, and extreme; we prevail through exercising our God-given authority in direct confrontation. We defeat evil through the rebuke of a direct command aimed directly at the evil entity: "In the name of Jesus, I command you (specific entity) to cease, desist, and depart!" Or in the case of deliverance: "I command you in the name of Jesus to come out!"

Remember: God covers and empowers those who have believed in Him, are committed to Him, and belong to Him. He then calls on us to fight on behalf of others.

Main Passages:

"The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.'⁴ And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone."⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a

(Turn over for continuation...)

moment of time,⁶ and said to him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.'⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'⁸ And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,"¹¹ and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."¹² And Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country." (Luke 4:3-14 ESV)

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.² I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler." (Psalm 91:1-4 ESV)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:7-8 ESV)

Reflection:

- What stands out to you from all of the above?
- Moment of Honesty: Which of the three areas have you struggled the most with? Where do you tend to be most vulnerable today?

Personal Application:

- What is one thing you will resolve to practice or adjust in your life from today's discussion?

Prayer Targets:

- Pray for specific breakthroughs in group members' lives.
- Pray for healing, spiritual breakthrough, and revival in our church, state, and nation.
- Pray by name for God to draw seeking friends and loved ones to himself through you.

