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## Triumph over Temptation: There is Power in the Word

*A Commentary by Jason Curry*



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I am a firm believer that everyone has been given a gift or talent from the Lord. The nature or range of these gifts may be explicitly mentioned in the Gifts of the Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (e.g., wisdom, knowledge, healing, miracles, prophecy and discernment) or they may be the result of the Holy Spirit impacting the life of the individual. For example, there are people who are able to sing on key; however, it is only when the Holy Spirit touches, inspires or anoints their voice that they are able to invoke God's presence, lead people to an understanding of God, encourage people to have a closer relationship with God and encourage others to show love toward their neighbors wherever they may find them. In short, these people are aware of the fact that God has made a profound investment in them, and they have made the decision to enhance God's investment by 1) acknowledging it, and 2) leading others to or back to God.

Indeed, there are people who are unaware that they have a gift or talent that can be used for the glory of God; therefore, it is the responsibility of those who know the Lord to demonstrate how their gift or talent can be used in the process of kingdom building. There are also others who understand that God has blessed them with a tremendous ability to lead, manage, sing, dance, write, speak, draw, design, create, build, influence or play an instrument; however, they are still a bit reluctant to use these gifts for the glory of God and for the building of community.

Paul reminds us that "...all things were created by God and for God (Colossians 1:16)." If you are currently utilizing the gift that God has given you for the glory of God, I would like to encourage you "keep-on" kingdom building. If you are unaware that you have been given a profound gift to lead others to Christ, I would like to encourage you to ask God and your pastor to help you to

identify this gift that can be used in God's service. If you have a gift or talent and do not want to share it with others, I would like to encourage you to utilize that gift to the glory of God and the uplifting of humanity. In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus reminds us that God can and will enhance the great investment that He has placed within us or possibly take away that gift or talent if we are reluctant to use it. Therefore, let us be about the business of investing in the gift(s) that God has given us.