

Midweek Matters

Issue 20

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Take your everyday, ordinary life- your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering." Romans 12:1 MSG



As I was listening to Pete's sermon on temptation, I felt God say,

"Bring it into the light."

"Illuminate it."

Perhaps that is a word for someone reading this. Whatever it is you may be struggling with, slowly sliding into, the secret thoughts you're glad no one else can mind-read, or the deep longings in your heart that are unfulfilled and bring you pain, bring it into the light. Do not keep it hidden, growing, and multiplying in the shadows. Bring it to Jesus, *"the light of the world"* (John 8:12). Temptation does not have to be a huge headline

sin; it can be anything that tries to lure you away from intimacy with God. It can be anything that you know is choosing your own way instead of God's way. It can be anything that promises to fulfil you more than God. For me, bringing temptation into the light has meant bringing it to Jesus out loud in prayer. Confessing my thoughts and inviting God to *"take captive every thought to make it obedience to Christ"* (2 Corinthians 10:5). Pete suggested it might also be sharing it with someone you trust, so they can help you be accountable and offer support.

Sunday 2nd August 2020 - Rev Pete - Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil [Click for sermon](#)

"Lead us not into temptation" (Matthew 6:13) is quite a strange thing to pray. On face value, what sort of God would purposefully lead us into temptation? Does He delight in making my life difficult? Does he want me to trip up just so I learn a lesson? As I have developed a *relationship* with God over the last decade, I have learnt to understand this verse based on an understanding of a Father who loves me and is **for** me and not against me. Since temptation comes from the evil one, not from God (James 1:13) I paraphrase the verse in my mind to *"don't let me give in to temptation"*. Temptation comes because we are human, and we should not be

surprised by it, but my prayer is to walk so closely with God that he does not *allow* me to be led into it because he holds my hand and can lead me in a better direction.

- What is the 'marshmallow' in your life right now? (*you will need to listen to the sermon to understand this!*)
- What brings you deep joy?
- Are there any ways you can spend a little more time in God's word each day so you can use scripture as a defence and a weapon against temptation?

God Bless,

Hannah

*"The joy of the
Lord is your
strength"*

Nehemiah 8:10