

# THE BATTLE IS TOUGH!

Christian men have it tough, and the only other people who **really** appreciate just how tough it is are other Christian men.

You may wonder why you often feel frustrated. You may have nagging doubts or suppressed anger. You may look at your life and be deeply depressed about your prospects. The workplace is a never-ending source of dissatisfaction. You want to advance. You want to make more money, rise higher in your company, but **you don't want to do the things that will take you there.**

You're shocked at the cheating and lying that goes on. You may be pegged as lacking motivation or not being a team player because your **Christian ethics** won't let you walk all over people. If you're stuck, you may become angry at God because following His laws doesn't seem to get you anywhere. In fact, His laws may seem to hold you back.

The question is: **"How can we live a Christian life in the midst of corruption?"**

1. We must confess that we are weak in trying to live a holy life.
2. We must believe that Jesus is our only hope for the power to live a holy life.
3. We must shun everything that can separate us from God.
4. We must mingle with godly members of the church and participate in godly activities. Jesus said that *"even though we are in the world, we are not of the world."*
5. We must change our habits: *"Be renewed in the Spirit of your mind."* Control the tongue, change friends, alter patterns, and control your thoughts.
6. We must let God show us how to find rest and enjoyment in a living relationship with Him.

The Bible says:

**Joshua 1:7** – *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go."*

**Proverbs 3:32** – *"For the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence."*

**Proverbs 10:9** – *"The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out."*

**Proverbs 17:24** – *"A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth."*

**Ephesians 6:4** – *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."*

But the Bible also talks about the free will to choose: *"Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigour are meaningless."* (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10)

Temple Baptist Church  
Men's Fellowship – October 10, 2009