

One Step To Freedom
Chapter 7: God's Faithfulness

LESSON 1
When We Are Tempted

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Let's examine the background when the apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthian church. Five things were already taking place in this group of believers. There was (1) inconsistent fellowship, (2) an influence by the culture, (3) a lack of biblical understanding, (4) spiritual immaturity, and (5) strife.

Using the children of Israel as an example, the apostle Paul warns the Corinthian believers how easy it is to fall into temptation.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-12.

From the following verses, write the lessons you learn that can lead to temptation.

1. Verse 6:

2. Verse 7:

3. Verse 8:

4. Verse 9:

5. Verse 10:

6. What were the consequences? (See verses 8-11.)

7. Write 1 Corinthians 10:12.

Before you criticize the Israelites, think about your own desires. Are they good and God-honoring or selfish? Do you forget about God during the week? Are you in an unhealthy relationship? Do you complain about your situation or do you thank God and trust Him?

Beware of becoming overly confident in your own abilities. All temptations are "common to man." We are all alike. We all face failure at every turn. But God is faithful.

8. Write 1 Corinthians 10:13.

God will always give us a way out if we listen to Him. If I fail and fall into temptation, it is because of my unfaithfulness, not His.

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“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man...”

It is encouraging to know that God deems temptation a common experience among Christians. No one is exempt from evil. Temptations are not unusual. You are not the only person who ever went through a particular temptation.

“but God is faithful...”

All temptations are under God's control and He personally knows what's happening to each one of us. Does God know about my lack of finances? Yes. Does God know I'm sick? Yes. Spiritual failure is avoidable when we realize that God is faithful no matter what is happening to us.

“who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able...”

God personally intervenes by His providence, and will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to handle. The point is not that the Christian can reach a point of sinlessness, but that God knows how much pressure we can take.

“but with the temptation will also make the way of escape...”

In God's providence, He personally makes a way of escape from temptation so that the Christian does not have to fall into sin. God especially designs a way of escape.

The definite article “the” before both “temptation” and “way of escape” points to a specific and specialized escape. (However, if we intentionally put ourselves in the way of temptation, then we put God to the test—and this is sin.) But for every temptation allowed by God, He provides an answer. It's like taking a test with the answers in the back!

“that you may be able to bear it.”

9. According to 1 Corinthians 10:14, what should be our response to temptation?

In the Greek, the word “flee” is a command. “Idolatry” is making anything more important than God. In love Paul is appealing to the believers to flee from the idols that led to paganism, sexual immorality, ingratitude, and pride. Ultimately, Paul knew that their participation in idolatry would violate biblical principles.

Today, there are idols all around us. And this idolatry takes on the form of addiction. For many, victory over addiction seems to be an unattainable dream, while others see themselves as being too weak to overcome the grasp addiction has on their lives.

It is God's purpose to constantly test us to reveal to us our spiritual condition; nevertheless, there is always a divine provision for the temptation. The thing that makes the difference is not what we do about our temptation but what God can do. God is faithful in testing and temptation.

The great issue in it all is the character of God; He is immutable and faithful to His promises. God loves the believer who is out of fellowship as much as the believer in fellowship. He is faithful to both.