

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT | “Resist Temptation”

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

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Big Idea: Resist temptation by heeding God’s warnings and believing God is faithful.

I. Heed God’s warnings (10:1-12)

A. By admitting the heart can forsake the love of God (vv. 1-5).

Jeremiah 2:13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

B. By not forgetting the consequences of sin (vv. 6-10).

C. By understanding the peril of pride (vv. 11-12).

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

II. Believe God is faithful (v. 13)

A. By knowing the truth about temptation through the word of God (v. 13a).

Theology of temptation:

- Everyone is tempted.
- There are no superhuman temptations.
- Temptation is not a sin.
- We are tempted when we are enticed by our own desire (James 1:13-15).

James 1:13–15 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- Satan is the tempter (1 Chron. 21:1; Matt. 4:3; 1 Cor. 7:5; 1 Thess. 3:5).

1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

Temptation is so strong in our lives because it’s not about us. Temptation is an assault by the demonic powers on the rival empire of the Messiah. That’s why conversion doesn’t diminish the power of temptation, as we often assume, but actually, counter-intuitively, ratchets it up. **Russell Moore – *Tempted and Tried***

B. By trusting in the character of God (v. 13b)

1 Corinthians 1:4–9 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among

you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

C. By standing on the promise of God (v. 13c).

D. By depending on the provision of God (v. 13de).

- Take up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:16-17; Matt. 4:1-10).

The problem is, though, that we often think escape from temptation, promised by God, means escape from the agony of struggling against temptation, which it does not. Don't pray for an end to the struggle. Pray for your warfare to be more effective as you dodge fiery darts on the way into the kingdom. **Russell Moore – *Tempted and Tried*, p. 184**

- Watch and pray against temptation (Matt. 6:13; 26:41; 1 Pet. 5:8).

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- Talk back to temptation.
- Flee idolatry (v. 14).

Proverbs 4:11–15 11 I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. 12 When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. 13 Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. 14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. 15 Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.

- Restore those who have yielded to temptation (Gal. 6:1).

Galatians 6:1 if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

- Rely upon Christ's strength and not yours (Heb. 2:18; 4:15).

Hebrews 2:18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.