

The Way Out

1 Corinthians 10:1–12

Main Idea

God's grace does not give us permission to live however we want. **The same grace that saves us also empowers us to live holy lives.** Israel's failures serve as warnings so that we can learn from them, resist temptation, and live lives that bring honor and glory to God.

Key Truth

It's not just how you start—it's how you finish.

Israel experienced God's presence, provision, and deliverance, yet most failed to live in obedience and devotion to Him. Their example reminds us not to become careless or overconfident in our walk with Christ.

1. Learn From the Warnings

Read

- 1 Corinthians 10:1–6
- 1 Corinthians 10:11–12

Paul reminds the Corinthians of Israel's journey through the wilderness. They experienced incredible evidence of God's presence and provision. God delivered them from Egypt, led them through the Red Sea, provided food and water, and remained with them throughout their journey.

Yet God's provision and presence did not result in their obedience and devotion.

Of the more than 600,000 fighting-age men counted at the beginning of their journey, only two entered the Promised Land. Paul tells the Corinthian believers that what happened to Israel was recorded as an **example and warning** for us.

God has given us His Word so we do not have to learn every lesson the hard way. We can learn from the faithfulness—and failures—of those who came before us.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul points New Testament believers back to Israel's failures?

2. What is the difference between experiencing God's blessings and actually living in obedience and devotion to Him?
3. Why can past spiritual experiences sometimes give us a false sense of security about how we are living today?
4. What biblical example or warning has had a significant impact on the way you live?
5. What does it mean for you personally to **finish well** in your walk with Christ?

2. Recognize the Dangers

Read

1 Corinthians 10:6–11

Paul identifies four specific failures from Israel's history that were particularly relevant to the believers living in Corinth. They remain relevant to us today.

Idolatry

Israel turned from worshiping the one true God and worshiped the golden calf.

Idolatry occurs whenever something takes the place in our lives that belongs to God alone.

Sexual Immorality

Paul points to Numbers 25, when Israel's sexual immorality ultimately led them further away from God and into idolatry.

God cares about holiness in every area of our lives, including our sexuality.

Testing God

Israel became impatient, complained about God's provision, and called His goodness into question.

There is a difference between honestly bringing our struggles to God and accusing God of not being good because we do not like our circumstances.

Grumbling

When Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, they were ultimately questioning the wisdom and sovereignty of the God who had placed those leaders over them.

Our grumbling can reveal something deeper about whether we trust God's wisdom, goodness, and sovereignty.

Discussion Questions

1. Which of these four warnings do you think is easiest for Christians today to overlook?
2. What are some things in our culture that can quietly become idols in our lives?
3. How can sexual temptation eventually affect areas of life beyond sexuality?
4. What is the difference between honestly questioning God during a difficult season and **testing God**?
5. How can grumbling reveal a lack of trust in God?
6. Looking at your own life, is there one of these four areas where God may be warning you to make a change?

3. Walk in Humility

Read

- 1 Corinthians 10:12
- Romans 12:3

“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”

One of the greatest dangers in facing temptation is **self-confidence**.

We can begin believing that we are spiritually strong enough to handle certain environments, relationships, influences, or temptations. We tell ourselves, *“I can handle it.”*

Paul warns us not to think that way.

Walking in humility means having a sober and honest understanding of ourselves. We recognize our weaknesses, know our tendencies, and understand that none of us is beyond temptation.

When we see someone else fall into serious sin, our response should never be, **“I would never do that.”** Instead, their failure should remind us of our own need to remain dependent upon God.

Discussion Questions

1. Why can spiritual confidence sometimes become spiritually dangerous?
2. Where are you most tempted to think, *“I can handle this”*?
3. Why is knowing our weaknesses an important part of pursuing holiness?

4. How should we respond when we see another Christian fall into serious sin?
5. What would greater dependence on God look like in an area where you regularly face temptation?

4. Rely on God's Grace

Read

Titus 2:11–12

Grace does more than forgive us after we sin. **Grace gives us the power to say no to sin.**

The same grace that saves us also teaches and empowers us to reject ungodliness and worldly desires and to live self-controlled, upright, godly lives.

We do not pursue holiness so that God will save us. We pursue holiness because God **has saved us**, and His grace is actively working within us.

Rather than trusting our own ability to overcome temptation, we depend upon God and the grace He provides.

Discussion Questions

1. How is relying on God's grace different from simply trying harder to resist sin?
2. Why do people sometimes misunderstand grace as permission to continue living however they want?
3. How does remembering what Christ has done for us strengthen us when facing temptation?
4. Where do you most need to stop relying on your own strength and begin depending on God?
5. How have you experienced God's grace helping you change—not just forgiving you afterward?

5. Take the Way Out

Read

1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptation is a reality for every believer. But Paul gives us several important truths to remember when it comes.

Your temptation is not unique. Others have faced the same kinds of struggles. The enemy wants to isolate us and convince us that we are alone, but Scripture tells us otherwise.

God is faithful. He does not abandon us when temptation comes.

God provides a way out. The question is whether we will take it.

The sermon identifies several ways God may provide that escape:

- **Prayer** — even the simple prayer, *“God, help me.”*
- **Scripture** — answering temptation with God’s truth.
- **Fleeing** — physically removing ourselves from a tempting situation.
- **Other believers** — asking a trusted Christian brother or sister for prayer, accountability, and help.
- **The Holy Spirit** — depending upon His presence and power within us.

God faithfully provides the way out. **We have to choose to take it.**

Discussion Questions

1. Why does temptation often make us feel isolated?
2. How does knowing that other believers struggle with temptation give us hope rather than shame?
3. Which of the “ways out” mentioned in the sermon have you found most helpful?
4. Why do we sometimes recognize the way out God provides but still choose not to take it?
5. Who is someone you can contact when you need prayer or accountability?
6. What practical change could you make now to prepare for a temptation you know you are likely to face?

Finishing Well

The book of Numbers begins with more than **600,000** fighting-age Israelite men preparing to journey toward the Promised Land.

Only **two** of those men entered it.

That gives us a sobering picture of the sermon’s closing challenge:

It’s not how you start. It’s how you finish.

The goal isn't merely to begin a relationship with Christ and then drift through life. God calls us to live lives of holiness that bring Him honor and glory.

When temptation comes:

Walk in humility.
Rely on His grace.
Take the way out.

God is faithful. He is with us, and He has given us what we need to say **no to sin and yes to holiness.**

Weekly Application

This week, identify **one recurring area of temptation** in your life and intentionally prepare for it before it comes.

Ask yourself:

Where am I vulnerable?

Walk in humility and acknowledge the weakness.

What truth from God's Word do I need to remember?

Choose a Scripture you can return to when temptation comes.

What is my way out?

Decide beforehand what you will do, where you will go, or whom you will contact.

Don't wait until temptation is strongest to decide how you will respond.

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful..."

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word and for the examples and warnings You have given us. Help us learn from the failures of those who came before us and choose lives of holiness that bring You honor and glory. Keep us humble, aware of our weaknesses, and completely dependent upon Your grace. When temptation comes, remind us that we are not alone and that You are faithful. Give us eyes to see the way out You provide

and the courage and strength to take it. By Your Spirit, help us say no to sin and yes to You so that we may finish well. In Jesus' name, Amen.