



Silverdale Baptist

VICTORY IN CHAOS ~ OVERCOMING TEMPTATION ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11-13 ~ 03/18-19/2023

Main Idea

We can learn practical steps to resist the temptations that we face in our lives.

Getting Started

What temptations do we face regularly?

Which temptation confronts you most often?

The first ten verses of 1 Corinthians 10 recall for us God's great provision and blessing that the people of Israel enjoyed. They also recall how they gave into temptation and sinned. These are given to us as examples to warn us so that we would not give into temptation and sin ourselves. So is it possible to make it through difficult times or do we have to give in to temptation? Let's explore the provision and promise God gives us to face temptation.

Learn

1. You're not beyond temptation.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11-12.

It is so easy to think that you are above temptation and immune to it. And the moment you get lackadaisical and spiritually lazy is the moment that you are most vulnerable and fall into danger. When you see others fall, you tend to think that it could never happen to me. But at the very moment that you think you are above temptation is the very time you will inevitably fall prey to a temptation. You have an enemy who is lurking and wants you to fall.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 5:8.

1 Peter 5:8 – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

When have you felt that you were above temptation and not susceptible to it?

2. Your temptation is not unique.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13a.

When you are struggling, you have a tendency to think that nobody else is going through the same thing you are. You tend to think that your temptation is unique and no one else is facing what you are. Yet, even Jesus Himself was tempted in every way that you are.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 4:15.

Hebrews 4:15 – For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

When have you felt that you were facing a temptation that no one else was facing? How did you respond?

3. You're not alone during temptation.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13b.

When you are tempted, you also tend to think that you are all alone and that God doesn't know or care about what you are facing. But you must tell yourself the truth...Jesus is with me! Because *God is faithful*, you must look to Him for His help and power to face the temptation. Jesus will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can handle. He will never put more on you, than He puts in you to endure it. Instead of focusing on the temptation, focus on Jesus. He knows exactly what you are facing and wants to give you the help that you need.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 4:16.

Hebrews 4:16 – Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

When have you faced a temptation and thought you were all alone? How did you respond?

4. You must take the way out of temptation.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13c.

You are able to escape the temptation. Satan says you can't. Jesus says you can. He promises He *will provide the way of escape*. Satan wants to destroy. Jesus wants to rescue you and give you victory. He always provides the way out of temptation but so often we don't take it.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GALATIANS 6:7-9.

Galatians 6:7-9 – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the One who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

When have you been provided the way of escape from temptation and not taken it?

When have you been provided God's way of escape and taken it and experienced victory?

Apply

Is there a temptation that you often fall prey to?

Is there any sin that you are covering up because of your unwillingness to deal with it?

How is the Lord providing the way of escape from the temptation you are facing?

Are you willing to allow Jesus to rescue and deliver you from temptation?

Pray

Father, thank You for always providing the way of escape from temptation. By Your Spirit may I allow You to empower me to experience the deliverance and victory that I need. In Jesus' name I ask. Amen.

Dig Deeper

Experience Must Be Balanced by Caution (1 Cor. 10:1–22)

Paul reminded the experienced believers who were strong in the faith that they had better not grow overconfident in their ability to overcome temptation. *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.* (1 Cor. 10:12). Paul used the nation of Israel as his example to warn the mature believers that their experience must be balanced by caution. He gave three warnings.

First, he warned that privileges were no guarantee of success (vv. 1–4). Israel had been delivered from Egypt by the power of God, just as the Christian believer has been redeemed from sin. (In 1 Cor. 5:7–8, Paul had already related Passover to salvation.) Israel was identified with Moses in their Red Sea “baptism,” just as the Corinthians had been identified with Christ in their Christian baptism. Israel ate the manna from heaven and drank the water God provided, just as Christians nourish themselves on the spiritual sustenance God supplies (John 6:63, 68; 7:37–39). However, these spiritual privileges did not prevent the Jews from falling into sin.

There are dangers to maturity as well as to immaturity, and one of them is overconfidence. When we think we are strong, we discover that we are weak. The strong believer who eats in the temple may find himself struggling with an enemy who is too strong for him.

Paul did not suggest in 1 Corinthians 10:4 that an actual rock accompanied the Jews throughout their wilderness journey, though some Jewish rabbis taught this idea. It was a spiritual rock that supplied what they needed, and that Rock was Christ. Sometimes the water came from a rock (Ex. 17:1–7; Num. 20:7–11) and at other times from a well (Num. 21:16–18). God provided the water.

Paul issued a second warning: good beginnings do not guarantee good endings (vv. 5–12). The Jews experienced God’s miracles, and yet they failed when they were tested in the wilderness. Experience must always be balanced with caution, for we never come to the place in our Christian walk where we are free from temptation and potential failure. All of the Jews twenty years old and upward who were rescued from Egypt, except for Joshua and Caleb, died in the wilderness during their years of wandering (Num. 14:26ff).

We can hear some of the “strong” Corinthians asking, “But what does that have to do with us?” Paul then pointed out that the Corinthian church was guilty of the same sins that the Jews committed. Because of their lust for evil things, the Corinthians were guilty of immorality (1 Cor. 6), idolatry (1 Cor. 8; 10), and murmuring against God (2 Cor. 12:20–21). Like the nation of Israel, they were tempting God and just “daring Him” to act.

Paul certainly knew his Old Testament, and his readers would recognize the events referred to. The “lusting” is found in Numbers 11:4ff, the idolatry in Exodus 32, and the fornication in Numbers 25. The Israelites often tempted God, but perhaps Numbers 21:4–6 was the reference Paul had in mind. For their complaining, see Numbers 14 and 16.

This kind of sin is serious and God must judge it. Not only did some of these rebels immediately die (see 1 Cor. 11:29–31), but those who remained were not permitted to enter the Promised Land. They were saved from Egypt but were not privileged to claim their rich inheritance. Paul was not suggesting that his readers might lose their salvation, but he was afraid that some of them would be “castaways” (1 Cor. 9:27), disapproved of God and unable to receive any reward.

I heard about a pastor who gave a series of sermons on “The Sins of the Saints.” One member of the church, apparently under conviction, disapproved of the series and told the pastor so. “After all,” she said, “sin in the life of a Christian is different from sin in the life of an unsaved person.” “Yes, it is,” the pastor replied. “It’s worse!”

We must not think that because the Jews were under the Law that their sins were worse than ours and therefore dealt with more severely. Sin in the church today is far more serious, because we have Israel’s example to learn from, and we are living “at the end of the ages.” To sin against the Law is one thing; to sin against grace is quite something else.

Paul’s third warning was that God can enable us to overcome temptation if we heed His Word (vv. 13–22). God permits us to be tempted because He knows how much we can take; and He always provides a way to escape if we will trust Him and take advantage of it. The believer who thinks he can stand, may fall; but the believer who flees will be able to stand.

Paul had already told his readers to “flee fornication” (1 Cor. 6:18); and now his warning is, “Flee from idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:14). He explained the reason why: the idol itself is nothing, but it can be used by Satan to lead you into sin. Idolatry is demonic (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37). To sit at an idol’s table could mean fellowship (“communion, partakers”) with demons. Paul was again enforcing the important doctrine of separation from sin (2 Cor. 6:14–7:1).

He used the Lord’s Supper as an illustration. When the believer partakes of the cup and loaf at the Lord’s table, he is, in a spiritual way, having fellowship with the body and blood of Christ. By remembering Christ’s death, the believer enters into a communion with the risen Lord. In 1 Corinthians 10:18, Paul pointed to the temple altar and sacrifices as another illustration of this truth. The application is clear: A believer cannot partake of the Lord’s food (the Old Testament sacrifice, the New Testament supper) and the devil’s food (the idol’s table) without exposing himself to danger and provoking the Lord.

“Are we stronger than He?” (1 Cor. 10:22) is directed at the strong Christian who was sure he could enjoy his liberty in the pagan temple and not be harmed. “You may be stronger than your weaker brother,” Paul intimated, “but you are not stronger than God!” It is dangerous to play with sin and tempt God.

Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 596–597.