

Strength Through The Storms
#11 – Entrapped By Enticement
1 Corinthians 10.12-13
April 7, 2024

We are continuing our series of messages from the first letter Paul wrote to the Corinthian church because they had gotten off track. The people had started well, but false teaching and other problems had crept into the church. One of the culprits was theological liberalism. Paul had personally spent over a year and a half in Corinth, and it broke his heart to see what was happening.

Last time, we looked at what God said regarding the fact that they needed to learn from Israel's mistakes, which they obviously had not done.

Today, we will be looking at a subject that affects every one of us. It is one of the most difficult things we deal with in the Christian

life, which is temptation. The title of this message is ENTRAPPED BY ENTICEMENT.

As we read the text, you need to highlight it and take notes. This is one of those passages that is vital to understand – and you would do well to memorize.

Read 1 Cor. 10.12

Verse 12 addresses one of the greatest challenges of the Christian life. Before we can really get to the heart of being ENTRAPPED BY ENTICEMENT, we must understand that one of our greatest challenges is...

I. PRIDE

1. Everybody has it, everybody deals with it, some more than others, but PRIDE is an issue that we must understand and deal with. You really need to memorize:

1 Cor. 10.12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Pride

The temptation of pride affects all kinds of people. I read of a preacher who prepared a sermon on "humility," and then filed it away. According to the story, he wanted to save it for a special occasion when he could impress a lot of people.

Sermoncentral.com

2. What do you suppose that little phrase "...**who thinks he stands...**" means? It means you think you are something that you are not.
3. My grandmother used to say:

"Don't get too big for your britches."

4. Confidence is a good thing. Self-confidence is a good thing, but over confidence can be deadly.

Satan will seldom come to a Christian with a gross temptation. A green log and a candle may be safely left together, but a few shavings, some small sticks and then larger, and you may bring the green log to ashes.

John Newton

5. Some of my greatest spiritual challenges have come at times when I felt I was at a time of great spiritual strength.

Pride can be Deadly

Pali, this bull has killed me." So said Jose Cubero, one of Spain's most brilliant matadors, before he lost consciousness and died.

Only 21 years old, he had been enjoying a spectacular career. However, in this 1958 bullfight, Jose made a tragic mistake. He thrust his sword a final time into a bleeding, delirious bull, which then collapsed. Considering the struggle finished, Jose turned to the crowd to acknowledge the applause. The bull, however, was not dead. It rose and lunged at the unsuspecting matador, its horn piercing his back and puncturing his heart.

Just when we think we've finished off pride, just when we turn to accept the congratulations of the crowd, pride stabs us in the back. We should never consider pride dead before we are.

Sermonillustrations.com

6. The Proverb writer put it well when he wrote:

Proverbs 16.18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.

7. Did you notice what was right next to pride in that Proverb? NAS, KJV, and NIV use the same phrase: “**a haughty spirit.**”
8. What does it mean to be “**haughty?**” **The Hebrew word means “elation, grandeur, arrogance, loftiness.”** Notice what Webster says:

Haughty: “Blatantly and disdainfully proud: having or showing an attitude of superiority and contempt for people on things perceived to be inferior.”

Synonyms: “cavalier, high and mighty, presumptuous, pretentious,” etc.

9. A haughty spirit, and pride go together like a hand and glove.

Romans 12.3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

10. A good self-image is great but can also be a major problem. If you “**think more highly of yourself than you ought,**” you are headed for trouble and are a prime target of Satan. You are putting yourself in a position to be ENTRAPPED BY ENTICEMENT which leads us to the second thing, which is the...

II. PROBLEM

Read 1 Cor. 10.13

1. What is the PROBLEM? It is Stan's greatest tool: TEMPTATION.
2. Do you really know what the word TEMPTATION means? Would you say that is a positive or negative word? The truth is that it can be either.
3. Temptation means to test or prove and does not necessarily have a negative connotation. Temptation can prove or test something good or bad. Whether it is good or bad depends on our response.
4. Satan's temptations are tests designed to entice someone to sin, the test itself is not sin, but rather the response.
5. There is an interesting phrase in verse 13 that you may have missed. What does it say in your translation?

NAS: “No temptation has overtaken you...”

KJV: “...taken you...”

NIV: “No temptation has seized you...”

6. Temptation has a way of overtaking and seizing you. **The Greek word means “to be overtaken,” or “overcome by.”**

7. **I like ice cream – specifically hot fudge sundaes. When I go to an ice cream shop, I am tempted – which can be good or bad based on my response. If I choose one or two scoops in my sundae that can be a good thing (for the most part) based on my choice. If, however, I order 4 scoops, extra fudge and extra whipped cream with nuts and a cherry – which I am actually tempted to do... when I chose that, it is a bad choice. Sometimes temptation just overtakes you and you find a way to justify your bad choice. “This is the only thing I will eat today.”**

8. How many different kinds of temptations are there? Much more than we can ever count, but you need to understand that your specific temptation is never unique. Notice the first part of verse 13 again:

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

9. The bottom line is that temptations are human experiences. Everybody has them and yours is no different from what other people have dealt with.

It begins at a very early age...

Bathing Suit

Some people fall into temptation, but a great many make plans for disaster ahead of time.

A "Son," ordered a father, "Don't swim in that canal."

"OK, Dad," he answered. But he came home carrying a wet bathing suit that evening.

"Where have you been?" demanded the father.

"Swimming in the canal," answered the boy. "Didn't I tell you not to swim there?" asked the father.

"Yes, Sir," answered the boy.

"Why did you?" he asked.

"Well, Dad," he explained, "I had my bathing suit with me and I couldn't resist the temptation."

"Why did you take your bathing suit with you?" he questioned.

"So I'd be prepared to swim, in case I was tempted," he replied.

Too many of us expect to sin and excite sin. The remedy for such dangerous action is found in Romans 13:14, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus

Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

Whenever we play with temptation, it is easy to drift into great danger. A woman was bathing in the Gulf of Mexico. She was enjoying the comfort of relaxing on an inflated cushion that kept her afloat. When she realized that she had been swept about a half mile out from the beach, she began to scream, but no one heard her. A coast guard craft found her five miles from the place where she first entered the water. She did not see her danger until she was beyond her own strength and ability.

C. Swindoll, One Step Forward, p. 85.

10. Remember that temptation by itself is not sin, but rather how we choose to respond to the temptation. That is where the good news comes in. Finally, notice the...

III. PROVISION

1. In the middle of **verse 13** is 3 words that are beyond incredible, that we need to get into our head, heart, and soul:

“God is faithful.”

2. What an incredible truth! God is faithful! You and I know that we are to be faithful, but never forget that God is faithful! He never changes, He always did what He said He would and is going to do what He says He will do!
3. In this context, God is faithful to me and you in a very specific situation. When we are tempted and have the choice to make – God will not make the choice for us, but rather will do two things.
4. First, He will not allow us to be in a tempting situation where we cannot make the right choice without His help.

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

Because He is going to give you what you need when you need it to make you able!

5. There is an old song that says:

**He is able to deliver thee
He is able to deliver thee
Though by sin oppressed go to Him
for rest
Our God is able to deliver thee.**

6. He not only is able, but He provides the way! As another great song says:

**“God will make a way
When there seems to be no way...”**

7. What does our text say that God will do?

“He will provide the way of escape...”

8. One of the ways God provides the way of escape is giving you the spiritual good sense to flee!
9. In reference to the temptations involved with money, Paul wrote to Timothy:

1 Tim. 6.11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

10. Incidentally, if we can resist the devil long enough, he will flee from us... for a season.

James 4.7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

11. What does God “**PROVIDE?**” – The “**way of escape so that you can endure it and get victory over it.**”

Last Chance

Roger Simms, hitchhiking his way home, would never forget the date-- May 7. His heavy suitcase made Roger tired. He was anxious to take off his army uniform once and for all. Flashing the hitchhiking sign to the oncoming car, he lost hope when he saw it was a black, sleek, new Cadillac. To his surprise the car stopped. The passenger door opened. He ran toward the car, tossed his suitcase in the back, and thanked the handsome, well-dressed man as he slid into the front seat. "Going home for keeps?" "Sure am," Roger responded. "Well, you're in luck if you're going to Chicago." "Not quite that far. Do you

live in Chicago?" "I have a business there. My name is Hanover." After talking about many things, Roger, a Christian, felt a compulsion to witness to this fifty-ish, apparently successful businessman about Christ. But he kept putting it off, till he realized he was just thirty minutes from his home. It was now or never. So, Roger cleared his throat, "Mr. Hanover, I would like to talk to you about something very important." He then proceeded to explain the way of salvation, ultimately asking Mr. Hanover if he would like to receive Christ as his Savior. To Roger's astonishment the Cadillac pulled over to the side of the road. Roger thought he was going to be ejected from the car. But the businessman bowed his head and received Christ, then thanked Roger. "This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me."

Five years went by, Roger married, had a two-year-old boy, and a business of his own. Packing his suitcase for a business trip to Chicago, he found the small, white business card Hanover had given him five years before. In Chicago he looked up Hanover Enterprises. A receptionist told him it was impossible to see Mr. Hanover, but he could see Mrs. Hanover. A little confused as to what was going on, he was ushered into a lovely office and found himself facing a keen-eyed woman in her fifties. She extended her hand. "You knew my husband?" Roger told how her husband had given him a ride when hitchhiking home after the war. "Can you tell me when that was?" "It was May 7, five years ago, the day I was discharged from the army." "Anything special about that day?" Roger hesitated.

Should he mention giving his witness? Since he had come so far, he might as well take the plunge. "Mrs. Hanover, I explained the gospel. He pulled over to the side of the road and wept against the steering wheel. He gave his life to Christ that day." Explosive sobs shook her body. Getting a grip on herself, she sobbed, "I had prayed for my husband's salvation for years. I believed God would save him." "And," said Roger, "Where is your husband, Mrs. Hanover?" "He's dead," she wept, struggling with words. "He was in a a car crash after he let you out of the car. He never got home. You see--I thought God had not kept His promise." Sobbing uncontrollably, she added, "I stopped living for God five years ago because I thought He had not kept His word!"

J.Kirk Johnston, Why Christians Sin, Discovery House, 1992, p. 39-41.

Conclusion

Satan will do his best to ENTRAP YOU with ENTICEMENT – or temptation. Your response will determine your spiritual success or failure. God will do His part. The question is, will you do your part?

Some of you likely have recurring temptations to sin. You can beat it. Choose God. Choose righteousness. Choose to make the right choice and when you fail, go to God in genuine repentance.

1 John 1.9-10 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Prayer