

Lesson 1

WHEN I AM 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) 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

Write the lessons you learn that can lead to temptation.

1. Write 1 Corinthians 10:6.

We are prone to be tempted to lust and desire evil things when there is a lack of contentment, lack of conviction, lack of control, lack of confidence in the Lord, and a lack of commitment to God's authority.

2. Write 1 Corinthians 10:7.

Verse 7 refers to when the Israelites made a golden calf and worshiped it in the wilderness (Exodus 32). This idolatry speaks of worldly desires and neglects the worship of God.

3. Write 1 Corinthians 10:8.

In Verse 8, Paul refers to Numbers 25:1-9 when the Israelites worshiped Baal of Peor and engaged in sexual immorality with Moabite women, and 23,000 people died because of this sin.

4. Write 1 Corinthians 10:9.

Verse 9 refers to when the Israelites complained about their food (Numbers 21:5, 6). The word *tempt* is better translated as "test" or "challenge." The Israelites questioned and challenged what God was doing in their lives.

5. Write 1 Corinthians 10:10.

Verse 10 refers to when the people complained against Moses and Aaron, and the plague that resulted (Numbers 14:2, 36; 16:41-50). The angel of death is also referred to in Exodus 12:23. This teaches us not to complain to God about circumstances, rather than trusting Him.

6. Write 1 Corinthians 10:12.

Before we 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.

7. There are four passages of 1 Corinthians 10:13. (The words between the punctuation). Write the first portion.

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

8. Write the second portion of 1 Corinthians 10:13.

All temptations are under God’s control and personal involvement. God may allow fiery trials, but He will always bring us through. This is where our faith comes in. God personally intervenes and will stretch us spiritually but not beyond our ability to bear it. Temptation is an opportunity to grow in our faith.

9. Write the third portion of 1 Corinthians 10:13.

In God’s providence (and foresight), He makes a specific way of escape from temptation so that the Christian does not fall into sin. The definite article “the” before “temptation” and “way of escape” points to the “particular escape” for the “particular temptation.” 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. God provides the way of escape.

10. Write the final portion of 1 Corinthians 10:13.

The word *bear* means to “bear from underneath,” “to endure and undergo hardship patiently.”

All temptations are under God’s control, and He 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 me.

God knows that we all have different capacities to deal with problems. God designs every temptation for blessing and spiritual growth, and He is faithful in providing the means for each one of us to endure and overcome.

11. 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 regularly 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 about it. 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. There is always divine provision for temptation. You have His Word on it. Trust Him!