

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and other supporting texts

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**Temptation** is the desire to perform an action that might be enjoyable in the short term but will probably later cause regret. Spiritually speaking, temptation is the enticement to do that which would displease God, causing sin.

**Temptation** is something none of us can avoid, since we were all born with an appetite for sin, and because we all have a common enemy of our souls – the devil – who is a tempter by nature.

As we continue our FAITH ENGAGE series, let's be sure we know what the Bible teaches us about TEMPTATION – that we might be better equipped to be victorious in temptation, and that we might help our friends do the same. As with all areas of our faith, we must do more than KNOW what God teaches, but determine to put His divine instruction into practice.

So let's begin by looking at what the Bible teaches us about God and temptation.

#### **Re: GOD AND TEMPTATION (key verses)**

**Matthew 4:1** Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**Hebrews 2:18** For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

**Hebrews 4:15-16** 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. 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.

**James 1:13-15** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

**2 Peter 2:9** [If God preserved Noah ... and rescued righteous Lot ...] then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

#### **LOOKING DEEPER INTO 1 CORINTHIANS 10**

**Vs. 1-4** All of Israel was protected in the passing through the Red Sea and wandering in the wilderness because they were in fact, drinking from the spiritual rock which was Jesus Christ.

**Vs. 5** Yet God was not pleased with them because of their disobedience and lack of faith.  
And all but two (Joshua and Caleb) died before entering the promised land

**Vs. 6, 11** All this history is to be an example for us and for our instruction

1. Not to crave evil things (vs 6)
2. Not be idolaters (vs 7)
3. Not to act immorally (vs 8)
4. Not to try the Lord (vs 9)
5. Not to grumble (vs 10)
6. Not to be over confident in spiritual stability (v. 12)

**Vs. 13** A key verse to overcoming temptation

1. All temptation is universal and can be overcome
2. All my temptations are screened by God to keep me from what I could not handle
3. All my temptations are matched by God with a supernatural and findable exit

### **Re: GOD AND TEMPTATION (summary)**

1. God cannot be tempted because He is perfectly holy
2. Jesus was temptable and tempted because He was also fully human
3. Jesus fully understands and sympathizes with my temptation
4. Jesus is fully able to come to my aid in time of need
5. Temptation never comes from God
6. God screens Satan's temptation from what I cannot handle
7. For every temptation, God provides a way of escape

## **THE GENESIS ACCOUNT**

### God's Restrictive Protection

**Genesis 2:16-17** The Lord God commanded that man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

### Misrepresenting the truth (Satan as the serpent)

**Genesis 3:1a** Indeed has God said, "You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?"

### Misinterpreting the truth (Eve)

**Genesis 3:3b** God has said, "You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die."

### The first temptation and sin

**Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

### Lessons from the Genesis account

1. God's restriction of the tree of good and evil was protection from sin and death
2. We must be careful not to misrepresent nor misinterpret God's Word
3. Seeing and taking are not sin in themselves, but temptations on the road to sin
4. The eating (partaking) is the sin and must be avoided at all cost

## **SCRIPTURES ON CONQUERING TEMPTATION**

**Matthew 6:13a** And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Matthew 26:41** Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

**1 Timothy 6:9** But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

**Luke 8:13** Those [seed] on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

**James 4:7-8** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

#### **HOW TO AVOID TEMPTATION RESULTING IN SIN (summary)**

1. Keep watching and praying
2. Don't want to get rich
3. Let your faith find firm root in Jesus
4. Resist the devil and draw near to God
5. Go to God's throne of grace to find help
6. Don't hang around the temptation
7. Look for the way out that God will provide

In closing, here is a song that I wrote years ago about one of my favorite verses, and the first verse I ever memorized : 1 Corinthians 10:13. I believe it summarizes well what we have been considering today.



#### **FIRST CORINTHIANS 10:13 (the song)**

When you are tempted and feel like giving in  
This verse can help you to turn away from sin.  
It always has helped me  
The promises are three!

One! You'll never be tempted  
In a way that's all brand new  
But others have been there too  
And the strong ones have all come through

Two! You'll never be tempted

Unless God is watching there  
Making the devil play fair  
So you'll only get what you can bear

Three! You'll never be tempted  
Unless God provides a way  
To get out right away  
So that you'll have victory that day

First Corinthians 10:13  
Promises to keep you out of trouble  
First Corinthians 10:13  
Better learn it on the double!

OK? Are you ready?  
It's your turn now  
Ready with number ...

One! You'll never be tempted  
In a way that's all brand new  
But others have been there too  
And the strong ones have all come through

Two! You'll never be tempted  
Unless God is watching there  
Making the devil play fair  
So you'll only get what you can bear

Three! You'll never be tempted  
Unless God provides a way  
To get out right away  
So that you'll have victory that day

First Corinthians 10:13  
Promises to keep you away from sin  
First Corinthians 10:13  
Better hear it once again

(1) Remember others have made it through  
(2) God is protecting you  
(3) And get out ... right away!  
First Corinthians 10:13!