

# The Promise of Escape: Hope and Help in Times of Temptation

## Sermon Notes

*“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.”*  
*1 Corinthians 10:13*

### Introduction

- Temptation is inevitable.
  - “A temptation is difficult situation or pressure that brings a reaction through which the character or commitment of the believer is demonstrated.”
    - *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, Richards/Zondervan, p.593
- The same Greek and Hebrew words are translated differently as *temptation*, *trial* or *test* depending on the context.
- In the NT, “temptation” in every instance comes from two Greek words: *peirazo* and *peirasmos*. They carry the ideas of trying, testing, proving or tempting; they can be positive or negative, depending on the source and intent.
- A temptation? Or a test? Yes!
- God “does not tempt anyone” (James 1:13), but he does test our hearts (Psa. 11:5, Prov. 17:3, 1 Thess 2:4)
- Temptation that can lead to sin starts with you and me (James 1:14), not our circumstances.
- Heed the warnings and learn from Israel’s example (I Cor. 13:1-12):
  - Despite their spiritual advantages (v. 1-4) “God was not well-pleased” (v. 5)
  - They succumbed to sinful cravings and idolatry (v. 6-8)
  - They questioned the goodness and plan of God (v. 9-10)
  - *“These things were written for our instruction...”* (v. 11)
- Guard against overconfidence: *“Let him who thinks he stands, take heed that he does not fall”* (v. 12)

### Hope and Help in Times of Temptation

1. The Predicament: You Are Not Alone in the Temptation (*“common to man”*)
  - a. Temptation comes in many forms
  - b. *“Lust of the flesh...lust of the eyes...boastful pride of life”* (1 John 2:15-16)
    - *“When we fail to resist temptation, we give up what we want most for what we want now.”*

- When we give in to temptation, we value the things of this world more than Christ. We give up what we want most for what we want now.
    - Expanding our definition of “temptation”...
  - c. Many saints have gone before you (Heb. 12:1, Gen. 50:20, Job. 1:22)
  - d. A world of believers around you face common battles
  - e. Christ faced “temptation” (Matt.4:1-11)
  - f. Yet He was without sin (Heb. 2:18, Heb. 4:15)
  - g. *“Therefore, Let us draw near with confidence...”* (Heb. 4:16)
  
- 2. The Power: You Will Not Be Tempted Beyond What You Can Resist (*“God is faithful”*)
  - a. *“Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world”* (1 John 4:4)
  - b. God knows exactly what we need and how much we can handle (1 Thess. 5:23-24, 2 Peter 2:9)
  - c. He is faithful to work out all things for our good and His glory (Rom. 8:28-29)
  - d. To refine us like gold, “tested by fire” (1 Peter 1:7).
  - e. To make us shine “as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:14-15)
  
- 3. The Promise: You Can Please God in the Face of Temptation (*“a way of escape...you will be able to endure it”*)
  - a. Resources for escaping temptation’s lures:
    - *“Set your mind on things above...”* (Col. 3:2)
    - *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.”* (Psalm 119:9)
    - *“Submit...resist...flee...”* (James 4:7)
    - *“Not forsaking our own assembling together...but encouraging one another...”* (Heb. 10:25)
    - *“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another...”* (James 5:16)
    - *“Watch and pray...”* (Matt. 26:41)
  - b. Realities when we handle temptation God’s Way--“Turning Temptations to Blessings” (James 1:2-4)
    - Temptation leads us to prayer.
    - Temptation points us to God’s Word.
    - Temptation decreases our pride.
    - Temptation makes us rely on Christ.
    - Temptation trains us not to sin.
    - Temptation equips us to comfort others.
    - Temptation gives us a platform to reach the lost.
    - Temptations make us long for heaven.

