

## No Temptation Has...

1 Corinthians 10:13

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** There are many wonderful passages in the Bible that provide us with great comfort and build our faith, trust and confidence in God.

**Jn. 3:16:** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

**2 Pet. 1:3-4:** *“as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

**Eph. 3:20:** *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”*

2. Sometimes such passages are referred to as “refrigerator verses” since they should always be before us like something stuck to our refrigerator.
  - A. Over the years, I’ve printed such Bible verses out on small pieces of paper and carried them around in my shirt pocket.
  - B. I would pull them out several times a day, read them, memorize them, meditate on them.
3. There is one verse that I carried around more over the years than others.
  - A. I carried it because I felt it was really important.
  - B. It was so important I had it laminated so it would last.

**\*\*1 Cor. 10:13:** *“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.”*

4. **3** This is an important verse in so many ways, so let’s consider some things it teaches us.

### II. DISCUSSION:

#### ***1 Corinthians 10:13 teaches us some things about...***

1. **4** Temptation:

A. Temptation is inevitable:

- (1) We live in the world, but are not of the world (Jn. 17:14-15).
- (2) The world is filled with temptation and it’s Satan’s goal to use whatever means at his disposal to draw us away from God (1 Jn. 2:15-17).
  - (a) Satan works 24/7, 365 days a year! (1 Pet. 5:8; he is always on the prowl!)
  - (b) Satan is smart! Paul speaks of the “wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11; NIV: “devil’s schemes”).
  - (c) The devil has the world in his back pocket! He has a lot of help! **1 Jn. 5:19:** *“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”*; 1 Jn. 3:10; Matt. 25:41 (cf. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)
  - (d) Satan is forever plotting and scheming to come up with what he believes is the best plan of attack that will lead to his success; he knows what “button to push”! (**Lk.**

**4:13:** “Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”).

(e) Satan is no joke and cannot be taken lightly!

B. **5** Our temptations are not unusual: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man...”

(1) It is a temptation, in and of itself, that when Satan is bearing down on us hard to think we are going through something someone has never experienced. It’s just not true! (re-read first part of 1 Cor. 10:13)

(2) It should give us a measure of comfort and strength to know that whatever Satan and his minions throw at us that many have gone through it before we did (“as is common to man”; **1 Pet. 5:9:** “Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”).

(3) We must not think that what we are going through is unusual; otherwise we’ll be tempted to hold our own personal “pity party.” That just gives Satan another opportunity to bring us down. **Can’t let Satan get us down!**

**Prov. 15:13:** “A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.”

**Prov. 17:22:** “A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.”

C. **6** Temptation serves a useful purpose: through our resistance to temptation we...

(1) Gain God’s approval: **Jas. 1:12:** “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

(2) Purify our faith: **1 Pet. 1:6-9:** “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.”

(3) Build our hope: **Rom. 5:3-4:** “...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

D. **7** We must be ready for temptation:

(1) We’ve established temptation is the inevitable and a common condition of man.

(2) Only a fool would ignore these two great truths.

(3) Therefore, we must exercise “due diligence” so we are always ready to deal with temptation.

☛ Sobriety and diligence (**1 Pet. 5:8:** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”; Vine says sober “signifies ‘to be free of intoxicants’”; explain; Don’t put a thief in your mouth that will steal your brains!),

☛ Be “watchful” (2 Tim. 4:5; **1 Pet. 4:7:** “...be serious and watchful in your prayers.”; Rev. 3:2; “situational awareness”; “the danger zone”),

- ☛ Put up a fight! **1 Pet. 5:9:** “Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”; Satan is a coward! If we’ll just put up a fight, he’ll flee! **Jas. 4:7:** “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
- ☛ Resistance must be coupled with obedience! **Jas. 4:8:** “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” **1 Jn. 4:4:** “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
- ☛ Make no “provision for the flesh”: **Rom. 13:14:** “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

E. **8** Never, ever underestimate Satan!

- (1) Remember, Satan had the courage to take on Jesus, one-on-one! **Matt. 4:1-11**
- (2) Even though he failed, he didn’t give up! **Lk. 4:13:** “Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”

**1 Corinthians 10:13 teaches us...**

2. **9** God is no respecter of persons:

- A. God is not our enemy! **Ezek. 33:11** He always has our best interests in mind (**Rom. 8:32:** “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”).
  - (1) Some people blame God for temptation; e.g., “God just made me this way!”
  - (2) That’s just not true! **Eccl. 7:29:** “Truly, this only I have found: that God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes.”
- B. God does not single us out regarding temptation; He only allows us to experience what is “common to” all men.
 

**Jas. 1:13-15:** “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. *14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*”
- C. Think! If God tempted us it would turn Him into a cruel, sadistic monster!
  - (1) It would put God in the position of placing a stumbling block into our path that would eventually lead to us being eternally lost!
  - (2) God forbid! God would never do such a thing!
 

**Matt. 18:6:** “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”
- D. We are made of flesh, hence, subject to temptations which appeal to us through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (**1 Jn. 2:16**).
- E. God calls on us to deal with difficult situations, but we should never entertain either of the following notions
  - (1) That God has it out for us, or,

- (2) God is allowing us to be tempted to a greater degree than others. (Rom. 8:32; Eph. 3:20; **Psa. 84:11**: “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”).

### **I Corinthians 10:13 also teaches us...**

#### **3. 10 God is faithful:**

- A. I believe this is the most important part of this verse; the very centerpiece: “God is faithful.”
- B. We can absolutely, positively count on Him to keep His word.
- C. We are used to men not keeping their word:

“I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.” —Franklin Roosevelt (October, 1940, president)

“We are not about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.” —Lyndon Johnson (October 1964 presidential campaign)
- D. But not so with God. He is 100% totally and completely reliable! This characteristic of God is stated throughout the Bible. “Great is Your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:23).

**Deut. 7:9**: “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;”

**2 Thess. 3:3**: “But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”

**2 Tim. 2:13**: “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

**Titus 1:2**: “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,” (cf. Heb. 6:18)
- E. We take it for granted that the sun comes up every morning and sets every evening.
  - (1) But someday the Sun will rise for the last time and set for the last time.
  - (2) But God has always been and always will be! **Mal. 3:6**: “I change not.”; **Heb. 13:8**: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
- F. We can trust in God’s faithfulness more than in the rising or the setting of the sun.

### **I Corinthians 10:13 also teaches us...**

#### **4. 11 God is in control:**

- A. Nobody (at least nobody I know) enjoys chaos; everyone likes stability in life. God is the ultimate in stability. We can totally, completely, and absolutely trust Him.
- B. God not only does not tempt us to sin (James 1:13-15), He is greater than the tempter and exercises authority over him.

**Matt. 12:28-29**: “But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”
- C. God allowed Satan to afflict Job, but He limited Satan regarding what he could do (Job 1:11-12; 2:5-6).
- D. God allows us to be tempted, but never allows us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist.

- E. Satan is extremely powerful! Think of Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, 911.
- F. But God is infinitely more powerful than Satan!
  - (1) Creation demonstrates God's power: Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16-17
  - (2) Resurrection demonstrates God's power: **Acts 2:24**: "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."; **Heb. 2:14**: "...through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,"; Matt. 12:29; 1 Cor. 15:26, 54
- G. The power of the resurrection is available to us; so surely God can empower us to overcome temptation (**Eph. 1:16-20**).
  - 1 **Jn. 4:4**: "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

### **I Corinthians 10:13 also teaches us...**

#### **5. 12** God knows our limitations:

- A. The maker of a car or an airplane knows precisely its limitations: e.g.,
  - (1) The automaker marks the maximum engine RPMs and marks it on the tachometer.
  - (2) The aircraft manufacturer publishes the weight limitations of an airplane; the planes altitude limits, takeoff and landing speed, etc.
- B. It should make sense then God knows exactly how much each of us can endure. God is our Maker! Gen. 1:26-27
  - (1) He will never allow our engine to "over-rev"!
  - (2) He will never allow us to stall and crash into the ground!
  - (3) He will never allow us to face any temptation greater than what He knows we are able to handle.
- C. We see this principle demonstrated in the case of the apostle Paul:
  - (1) Multiple persecutions:
 

**2 Cor. 11:24-27**: "From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness..." (Despite this...2 Tim. 4:7-8)
  - (2) Thorn in the flesh: 2 Cor. 12:7-10
    - (a) He prayed three times that his "thorn in the flesh" would be removed; the Lord denied this request.
    - (b) Paul needed the thorn to humble him.
    - (c) Rather than remove the thorn, the Lord promised to give him the strength to endure it (**2 Cor. 12:9-10**: "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.").

D. God knows how much adversity we can handle **and** how much adversity we need to handle.

**1 Pet. 1:6-7:** *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”*

**Rom. 5:3:** *“...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

**Jas. 1:2-3:** *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*

**Jas. 1:4:** *“Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

### **I Corinthians 10:13 also teaches us...**

6. **13** God is our deliverer:

A. Not only is God faithful allowing us to be tempted beyond what we can handle, He is also faithful to provide a means of deliverance from every temptation.

B. We are fools to “go it alone”! Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12; **Psa. 121**

C. **\*\*** God is a great deliverer. He:

(1) Noah: Delivered Noah and his family from the destruction of the flood (Gen. 6-8; 1 Pet. 3:20).

(2) Lot: Delivered Lot from the degradation/destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19).

(3) The Jewish people: God...

☛ Delivered His people from Egyptian bondage (Ex. 3:8).

☛ Delivered them from the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 9:13).

☛ Delivered the Jews from the plot of Haman (Esther 4:14).

(4) Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego: He delivered them from the fiery furnace (Dan. 3:17).

(5) Daniel: He delivered Daniel from the lion’s den (Dan. 6:22).

D. **14** Peter uses the deliverance of Noah and Lot from destruction to make a critical point we must learn:

**2 Pet. 2:4-9:** *“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”*

E. **\*\*** God provides us with deliverance from every temptation, BUT...

(1) We must have enough faith to look for “the way of escape”!

(2) We must have enough faith, courage, trust, and determination to take it!

- ☛ Noah had to build the ark! Heb. 11:7
- ☛ Lot had to walk away from his home! Gen. 19:12: *“take them out of this place!”*
- ☛ The children of Israel had to walk out of Egypt!
- ☛ The Jews had to make the trip from comfy Babylon back to the ruins of Jerusalem!
- ☛ The Jews had to fight and defend themselves to escape annihilation at the order of Haman (Esther 8:11).

F. Can you imagine the thoughts and feelings of...

- ☛ Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego when the flames drew near?! Dan. 3:16-18
- ☛ Daniel as the lions approached close enough that he could feel their breath?! Dan. 6

G. But they were convinced in God’s deliverance! God’s promises concerning temptations are certain:

- ☛ No temptation uncommon to man,
- ☛ Not tempted beyond ability to endure,
- ☛ Will provide a way of escape,
- ☛ Will be able to bear it.

H. **\*\* BUT**, we must look for and take that “way of escape”! How?

- ☛ Knowledge of God’s Word (Matt. 4:1-11),
- ☛ Diligence in prayer (Matt. 26:36-46),
- ☛ Soberness, vigilance and watchfulness (1 Pet. 5:8; Rom. 13:14).

### III. CONCLUSION: 15

1. God has given us so many “*great and precious promises*” (2 Pet. 1:4). We could go on for hours listing them.
2. But 1 Corinthians 10:13 proffers one of God’s greatest promises:  
**1 Cor. 10:13:** *“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.”*
3. Are you taking full advantage of God’s “*great and precious promises*”?
4. Invitation

Adapted from an article (*Lessons We Can Learn About God From 1 Corinthians 10:13*) by Heath Rogers.