

## God Is Faithful

### I Corinthians 10:13

#### I. INTRODUCTION:

1. **2** I Corinthians 10:13 is a “refrigerator verse”; it should always be before us, like something that is stuck on our refrigerator (**2 Pet. 3:1**: “...*stir up your pure minds by way of reminder*”).
  - A. For several years I had the verse printed on a small, laminated card and carried it with me.
  - B. I would take it out of my pocket several times each day and read the verse and meditate on the truths it teaches.
  - C. This strategy was very helpful as I was striving to overcome a sin that was difficult for me to deal with.
  - D. This strategy is a principle the Lord taught the Israelites (**Deut. 11:18-21**: “*Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19 You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 20 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land...*”).
2. **\*\*** It is important for us to briefly consider the context of this verse:
  - A. The immediate context for the verse begins in the last part of chapter 9:
    - (1) In I Corinthians 9:24-27 Paul addresses our need to “*be temperate in all things*” so that we may receive the “*imperishable crown*.”
    - (2) To achieve this goal, we must “*run...not with uncertainty*” and “*fight...not as one who beats the air*.”
    - (3) We must take living the Christian life as deadly serious, because it is!
    - (4) If we fail, we will be “*disqualified*”; i.e., eternally lost.
  - B. **3** Paul then opens chapter 10 by giving several notable examples of the Israelite’s failures in remaining faithful (vv. 1-11).
    - (1) That is, their failure to run the race successfully; failure to fight the good fight of faith.
    - (2) He admonishes in 10:6 these incidents in the Israelite’s history “*our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted...*”
    - (3) In verse 11 Paul reminds us these things “*happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition [warning], upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*”
    - (4) In verse 12 Paul issues another key warning: “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*”
    - (5) In other words, don’t be so over confident as to think it cannot happen to you!
3. **4** Then verse 13 reads: “*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.*” (I Cor. 10:13).
4. **\*\*** This verse is a two-edged sword:
  - A. **Edge #1**: It further supports the warning of verse 12 by telling us we are responsible for our sin, because God makes every provision possible for us to avoid sin:

**Jas. 1:13-14:** “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.”).

- B. **Edge #2:** It provides encouragement. With all of Paul’s admonitions not to repeat the mistakes of the Israelites, one might be tempted to throw up their arms saying, “Faithfulness is too impossibly hard.!” It’s not! God guarantees it’s not!

**2 Chr. 16:9:** “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”

5. **5** This verse teaches us so many important lessons, but tonight I want to simply focus on some lessons we can learn about our great God.

## II. DISCUSSION:

### One lesson 1 Corinthians 10:13 teaches us about God is...

#### I. **6** God is no respecter of persons:

- A. I’m so thankful God does not single me out regarding temptation! Aren’t you?
- (1) He guarantees you and I will only experience temptations “common to” all men.
  - (2) Despite what life throws our way, you and I don’t have to worry some temptation is going to come our way that is just “over the top,” so to speak.
  - (3) Paul says, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man...”
- B. **\*\*** We are all 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).
- C. While we may be called upon to struggle with difficult situations, we should:
- (1) Never entertain the idea God has it out for us by making us experience something no one else has ever experienced.
  - (2) Never entertain the idea God is allowing us to be tempted to a greater degree than other folks.
  - (3) Never entertain the notion we will just give up because our temptation is greater than anyone else has ever been called upon to bear.
- D. **7** Let us take great comfort in the truth: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man...” We must do three things:
- (1) **\*\*** It will require great faith on our part! Understanding temptation’s benefit...

**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.”

**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.”

- (2) **\*\*** It will require conscious effort and preparation on our part!

**Eph. 6:12-13:** “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of

wickedness in the heavenly places. *13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*"

**1 Pet. 5:8-9:** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. *9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*"

(3) **\*\*** God is up to the task if we are willing to do our part...trust Him!

**2 Pet. 2:9:** "...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,"

### **Another lesson 1 Corinthians 10:13 teaches us about God is...**

#### **2. 8** God is faithful:

A. The centerpiece of this great verse is the faithfulness of God.

**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;"

**Psa. 36:5:** "Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds."

**Psa. 119:90:** "Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides."

(1) We've all been let down by someone we trusted.

(2) But God can be counted on a million, zillion percent to keep His word! No worries!

**Psa. 100:5:** "...His truth endures to all generations."

**Psa. 146:6:** "...Who keeps truth forever..."

**2 Cor. 1:20:** "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ." (NIV)

(3) When God makes a promise (as in 1 Cor. 10:13) you can "take it to the bank!"

B. **\*\*** This attribute of God is stated throughout the Bible. "Great is Your faithfulness" (Lam. 3:23).

(1) God "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2).

(2) That's why the Psalmist wrote God will never allow His "faithfulness to fail" (Psa. 89:33).

C. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:13: "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

(1) So, when it comes to God's great promises in 1 Corinthians 10:13 the only thing in doubt is my faith in what He promises.

(2) "the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one." (2 Thess. 3:3)

(3) The Lord's part of the deal is not in question!

(a) The only thing in question is my part of the deal.

(b) Is my faith strong enough to trust in His promise and in His ability to keep His promise?!

**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,"

**Heb. 10:23:** "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

### Another lesson 1 Corinthians 10:13 teaches us about God is...

#### 3. **9** God is in control:

##### A. What wonderful guarantees!

(1) God does not tempt us to sin (Jas. 1:13-15).

(2) **AND** God is greater than the tempter and exercises authority over him.

**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.”

##### B. **\*\*** God allowed Satan to afflict Job, but He limited Satan regarding what he could do.

**Job 1:11-12:** “But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” 12 And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.”

**Job 2:5-6:** “But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” 6 And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.’”

##### C. **\*\*** Our great High Priest has destroyed Satan’s power!

**Gen. 3:15:** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

**Heb. 2:14-15:** “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

##### D. **\*\*** That does not mean Satan does not have power; but it does mean Satan is powerless over those who are faithful!

**2 Sam. 2:9:** “He will guard the feet of His saints.”

**Jas. 4:7:** “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

(1) God allows us to be tempted, but never allows a temptation beyond our ability to resist.

(2) **\*\*** But, once again, it requires us to exercise our faith!

**Jas. 4:7:** “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

**2 Pet. 2:9:** “...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations...”

**1 Pet. 1:3-5:** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

**2 Pet. 1:10:** “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;”

### Another lesson 1 Corinthians 10:13 teaches us about God is...

#### 4. **10** God knows our limitations:

##### A. God knows exactly what each of us can (and can’t!) endure.

(1) Some can endure more, while others can endure less when it comes to temptation.

- (2) But God knows exactly what you can endure; and He knows exactly what I can endure!
- (3) And, He will never allow us to face anything greater than what He knows we are able to handle. What a grand and glorious promise!

B. \*\* This is vividly demonstrated in the life of the apostle Paul (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

**2 Cor. 12:7-10:** *“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 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.”*

- (1) Paul prayed three times that his “thorn in the flesh” be removed; but each time the Lord denied his request.
- (2) Paul could have gotten all depressed and given up; he could have done as Job’s wife told Job (**Job 2:9**: “Curse God and die!”).
- (3) But Paul did neither! Why? Paul understood the Lord was not removing the thorn for his good; he needed the thorn to humble him.
- (4) So, rather than remove the thorn, the Lord promised to give him the strength to endure it: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”*
  - (a) Instead of quitting, Paul used his temptation as an occasion of joy *“knowing the testing of your faith produces patience”* (Jas. 1:2-3).
  - (b) Paul understood the temptation was an occasion for the Lord’s “chastening”; and if he endured it he would become *“partakers of His holiness”* and receive *“the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”* (Heb. 12:5-11)
  - (c) That’s why Paul confidently said: *“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.”* (2 Cor. 12:10)

C. \*\* We too can have the same confidence when we face great trials and temptations.

- (1) God knows both how much adversity we can handle and how much adversity we need to handle.
- (2) So, let us treat it like Paul did; a great occasion for our faith and holiness to grow (1 Cor. 11:1).

### **A final lesson about God we can learn from 1 Corinthians 10:13 is...**

5. **II** God is our deliverer:

- A. Not only is God faithful not allowing us to be tempted beyond what we can handle, He is also faithful to provide a means of deliverance for every temptation.
- B. \*\* God is the great Deliverer: **Psa. 18:2:** *“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my strength, in whom I will trust...”*
  - (1) He delivered Noah and his family from the destruction of the great flood (Gen. 6-8).
  - (2) He delivered Lot from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19).
  - (3) He delivered His people from Egypt (Ex. 3:8) and from Babylon (Ezra 9:13).

- (4) He delivered David from Saul (I Sam. 19).
- (5) He delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego from the fiery furnace (Dan. 3:17).
- (6) He delivered Daniel from the lion's den (Dan. 6).
- (7) He delivered the Jews from the evil plot of Haman (Esther 3-7).
- C. Since God delivered these great heroes of faith, we should have faith and complete confidence He *"knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations"* (2 Pet. 2:4-9).
- D. **12** God provides the way of escape from every temptation, but we must be willing to take it.
  - (1) Noah had to build the ark (Gen. 6-8).
  - (2) Lot had to flee Sodom (Gen. 19).
  - (3) Joseph had to run away from Potiphar's wife (Gen. 39:12).
  - (4) The children of Israel had to walk out of Egypt to escape bondage (Ex. 12).
  - (5) They had to cross the Red Sea (**Ex. 14:15**: *"And the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward!'"*).
  - (6) The Jews had to fight and defend themselves to escape annihilation at the order of Haman (Esther 8:11).
- E. **\*\*** Therefore, we must summon the courage and faith to take the way of escape God faithfully provides!
  - (1) Let us **pray** for the strength and courage of heart to find the way and take it!
  - (2) *"Why do you cry to Me? ...go forward!"* Ex. 14:15

### III. CONCLUSION:

- 1. We serve a great God!
  - A. His promises are great **and** sure.
  - B. He promises you and me we won't suffer any temptation others are not called on to bear.
  - C. He promises you and me we won't be tempted beyond my ability to endure.
  - D. He promises to faithfully provide you and me with a means of escaping every temptation we face.
- 2. The only issue in doubt is: Do I have the enough faith in His promises to ACT on them?
- 3. Do you?

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