

The Way Of Escape By Pastor Jeff Wickwire

1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 1 Peter 4:12,5:8-9; Romans 5:3-4; Colossians 1:13; Philippians 4:6-7;

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Bible Verse

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (NIV)

¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.

²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

³They all ate the same spiritual food

⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry."

⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.

⁹We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes.

¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

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Note

So, in the first twelve verses of 1 Cor. 10, Paul hits on 4 sins the children of Israel fell into:

- They lusted after evil things.
- They committed idolatry by bowing down to the golden calf Aaron had made rather than worshiping God.
- They committed sexual sin.
- They tested the Lord's patience by endless complaining.

Now, Paul says "Be careful that you don't fall to the same things, because you can!" Then in verse 13 the Holy Spirit through Paul gives us a wonderful word of comfort to remember in the midst of all our trials and temptations.

Let's unpack it:

1. You're not alone in what you're going through

"No temptation (including test, trial, calamity, or affliction) has overtaken (laid hold) of you that is not common to man..."

Peter said the same thing,

Bible Verse

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

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Bible Verse

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)

⁸Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

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Note

The devil likes to tell us that what we're going through is unique; that no one has suffered as much as us or in the same way as us. He does this to make us feel

isolated and alone. But Paul assures us, “No temptation, test, or trial that you’re going through is unique or unusual—others are going through the same thing as you. ”So we can take comfort in knowing that others are in the same struggle, the same battle, the same trial, and are walking through it.

Are you battling a physical disease? Millions of other Christians are battling the same thing. Has a spouse walked out on you and left you desolate and alone?—Countless other believers are experiencing the same pain and walking through it. Have you lost a child to rebellion, even after teaching them the Word of God their whole life?—Thousands of believers are walking through the same grief. Have you lost a job? Do you wonder how you’re going to pay your bills?—You’re not alone!

So take comfort in knowing that countless other believers are going through the same thing you are and God is taking care of them, just like He will you!

The second encouraging word is:

2. God has his hand on the dial of your trial

“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted, tried, or tested beyond what you are able (to stand)...” NKJV The Apostle Paul turns our eyes and faith to the faithfulness of God. GOD. IS. FAITHFUL.

Now, there have been trying times in my life where I said to God—“Lord, it seems you HAVE given me more than I can bear.” But in looking back now, I see that He hadn’t, because I made it through! I love the words of John Newton, who wrote Amazing Grace: “When we have been brought very low and helped, sorely wounded and healed, cast down and raised again, have given up all hope—and been suddenly snatched from danger, and placed in safety; and when these things have been repeated to us and in us a thousand times over, we begin to learn to trust simply to the word and power of God...”

Someone else wrote: “Your struggles and tears will NEVER be wasted but will be transformed into a healing balm after your victory. You’ve won already. Hold on just a little while longer. Everything will be alright. We serve a God whose Name is FAITHFUL.”

The Bible promises that,

Bible Verse

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)

³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope.

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Note

So, 1.) you're not alone in what you're going through; 2.) God's hand is on the dial of your trial, and third:

3. He will provide an exit door that you may be able to bear it

"But with the temptation (trial, or test, God) will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (NKJV). The word for escape is ek'-ba-sis, meaning not just out from but to or toward something else. If what you're experiencing is a temptation to sin like Israel fell into, God not only gives you a way out of the bad, but also makes a way in to something safe! He makes a way out of the devil's trap, and into a place of safety!

Illustration

When I got saved, I had been immersed in the drug culture and God saved me out of it. But I was still surrounded by old friends and old places of sin. So God provided for me a wonderful church home that became a place of safety where I was fed and nurtured and disciplined. He provided a way out of the old and a way into the new!

Note

Paul writes that God has,

Bible Verse

Colossians 1:13 (NIV)

¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

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Note

Now here's the deal: God makes an open road, but then you and I must walk in it! God can make a way out, but we must cooperate with Him and go through the door. God made a way, but I had to faithfully attend! Now, there are times it's not a temptation to sin but a trial of your faith—like a sickness, or a painful relationship, or something deeply trying your patience.

And Paul says God also provides a way out of that! But we must understand it's NOT necessarily out of the trial that God makes a way, but He provides a way of escape while still IN the trial. He does this by sending the "peace that passes all

understanding.” The way of escape is peace instead of fears, worries, stress, and anxiety brought on by the trial.

The Apostle Paul was very familiar with long-standing trials from which he was not delivered on the outside. But he did discover a way of escape on the inside!

I close with this well known verse:

Bible Verse

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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Note

The way out isn't always on the outside—we can find victory though our circumstances haven't changed by God's strength, peace, and comfort! Either way, God makes a way of escape that you might be able to bear it!