

Standing Strong

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

Ever feel like you're the only one facing that particular temptation? You're not. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that the temptations we face are common to everyone—and God is faithful to provide a way out every single time. Here's the truth: God never allows temptation beyond what you can handle, and He always provides an escape route. The question is, will you take it?

Paul's Helpful Direction

1. You will _____ temptation.
2. God will _____ temptation.
3. You can _____ temptation.

Biblical Principles

1. _____ the possibility of temptation.
2. _____ help in advance of temptation.
3. _____ the devil and he will flee from you.
4. _____ from certain kinds of temptation.
5. _____ any means of sin.
6. _____ bad influences with good ones.

Discussion Questions

1. Share about a time when you faced a minor temptation (like John Huffman's parking lot dilemma). What made the decision difficult? What did you choose to do?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. "*As you get closer to God and begin to be more valuable to the cause of Christ, temptation will increase.*" How does this challenge common assumptions about spiritual growth? Have you experienced this in your own life?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12. Why do you think pride is often the common denominator in those who fall into temptation? Can you think of biblical examples beyond those mentioned (Elijah, Peter, David)?
5. Patrick describes God's "way of escape" as "*a narrow passage out of a treacherous canyon.*" Why do you think this escape route is often narrow and brief? What makes it easy to miss?
6. Of the six principles for resisting temptation, which one resonates most with you right now? Why?
7. The Scriptures distinguish between temptations we should "resist" versus those we should "flee" from. How do you discern the difference? What are some modern examples of each category?
8. Discuss the "donut story." In what ways do we sometimes set ourselves up for failure by not removing the means of sin? What would genuine removal look like in today's digital age?
9. Proverbs 13:20 warns about associating with fools. How do we balance maintaining relationships with non-believers (for witness) while protecting ourselves from influences that pull us away from God? Where is that line?

Scripture References (In order of use): 1 Corinthians 10:12; Proverbs 16:18; Matthew 6:13, 26:41; James 4:7; Proverbs 4:14-15; Romans 13:14; Proverbs 13:20
Reference Works: 1 Corinthians (Curtis Vaughn and Thomas D. Lea); 1 Corinthians-The Word of the Cross (Stephen T. Um); 1, 2 Corinthians (Robert E. Picirilli); Addresses in the First Epistle to the Corinthians (H. A. Ironside); I & II Corinthians (Richard L. Pratt Jr.)



**The tactics that Jesus taught were simple—
get saved and go home.**

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The Universality of Temptation

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:12-15

Temptation is not a sign of spiritual failure—it's a sign you're human. Even Jesus faced fierce temptation in the wilderness. When the enemy whispers that you're uniquely flawed or spiritually weak, remember: every believer fights this battle. The temptations that assault your mind are common to humanity. You're not alone in this struggle, nor are you disqualified because of it. The question isn't whether you'll be tempted, but how you'll respond when temptation comes. Your struggle doesn't separate you from God's people; it connects you to them. Take comfort knowing that countless faithful believers have walked this same path and found victory through Christ's strength.

Day 2: God's Faithful Limitations

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 103:8-14

God knows your breaking point—and He guards it jealously. He never allows temptation to exceed your capacity for resistance. This divine limitation isn't weakness; it's wisdom. Like a loving trainer who knows exactly how much weight you can lift, God calibrates each test to strengthen rather than destroy you. When temptation feels overwhelming, remember: God has already measured its intensity against your spiritual strength. He sees the end from the beginning and has determined you can endure this. The very fact you're facing this temptation means God believes you're ready for it. His faithfulness ensures that no trial will crush what He's building within you.

Day 3: The Way of Escape

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Proverbs 4:14-27

Every temptation comes with an exit strategy—designed by God Himself. The moment the test begins, the escape route already exists. It might appear as a fleeting thought: "This is wrong—stop now." It could be a sudden interruption, an uncomfortable feeling, or a Scripture verse that comes to mind. The tragedy isn't that escape is unavailable; it's that we often walk right past it. That narrow passage out of the treacherous canyon requires immediate action. Hesitation allows temptation to take root. The longer you linger at the entrance of sin, the harder it becomes to choose the exit. God's way out preserves not just your behavior, but the integrity of your soul.

Day 4: The Discipline of Preparation

Reading: Matthew 26:36-46; Ephesians 6:10-18

Battles are won before they're fought. Jesus instructed His disciples to "watch and pray" so they wouldn't fall into temptation—not during the crisis, but before it arrived. The reason many fail when temptation strikes is they wait until the moment of battle to seek strength. Victory belongs to those who have already fought on their knees. Anticipate your battles. Know your weak spots. Memorize Scripture that speaks directly to your vulnerabilities. Build spiritual strength through daily communion with God, not frantic prayers in the moment of crisis. The spirit may be willing, but the flesh is weak—which is precisely why preparation is essential. Fight your battles in prayer before temptation ever knocks.

Day 5: The Power of New Life

Reading: Romans 13:11-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17

You cannot defeat temptation through willpower alone. Like dead leaves clinging to winter branches, old habits resist our efforts to strip them away. But when spring comes, new life rising from within naturally forces dead leaves to fall. This is the secret: as you abide in Christ through His Word, prayer, and fellowship, the Holy Spirit produces new life within you. As Christ's life grows stronger, your soul quietly expels sinful desires and unbiblical thinking. Don't merely try to stop doing wrong; actively clothe yourself with Christ's presence. Replace bad influences with godly ones. Let new affections crowd out old addictions. Victory isn't found in white-knuckled resistance, but in cultivating new life that makes the old obsolete.

Deacons on Call

Cleve Bearden and Marc Traweek

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Resumes **AUGUST 19**
- **First Kids:** See you in August
- **First Youth:** See Eric for summer schedule

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Standing Strong

1 Corinthians 10:13

Verses we all need to Memorize

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

JOHN 14:6 ESV

JULY 12, 2026