

Temptation and the Way of Escape  
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

**I. What were the temptations the Corinthians faced?**

**A. Temptation**

1. A suggestion or appeal to the self that the self create a reality for itself or satisfy its own desires by a means, or for a reason, or with an outcome other than that which God intends or reveals
2. Temptation is the universal experience of enticement to evil
3. **Temptation is the effort to seduce the heart away from God.**

**B. Immediate context**

1. Israelite history as an example that we might not “desire evil” **(v. 6)**
  - a. Desiring evil is the choice temptation sets before us
    - (1) Will we desire God, His will and His ways, or will we pursue our desire on our own terms
    - (2) To act without faith, to act selfishly, or with pride in one’s own ability, to disregard or deny God and the role He claims in our lives is the heart of evil
  - b. Warning to the strong **(v. 12)**
    - (1) Anyone who thinks they have arrived at spiritual, theological perfection
    - (2) Anyone who thinks that they may be excused because they “have no choice” in the matter of idolatry (peer-pressure)
    - (3) The very idea that one has no need of daily grace, or of need to fight the battle against self-dependence, demonstrates a condition of falling away from the very grace they need.
2. No temptation . . . but what is common to man **(v. 13)**
  - a. Not necessarily a word of encouragement as much as a corrective
    - (1) “Do not think that yours is a special case and therefore your sin can be excused as though no one else has to confront your particular challenge”
    - (2) The seduction of the selfish heart, aggravated by a sin loving spiritual enemy who seeks your destruction is part and parcel of human experience
  - b. **When it comes to temptation and sin, you have no excuse**

**C. Larger context**

1. Other Issues
  - a. Pride/arrogance
  - b. Sexual immorality
  - c. Misguided devotion
  - d. Disobedience/faithlessness
2. **Main Issue: LOVELESSNESS**
  - a. Focus on one’s self rather than on God, His glory, and His love for others
  - b. **Lovelessness is a common temptation and no one has an excuse**

## II. What is the God-provided way of escape? (See Jesus: Mat 4)

### A. Be filled with the Holy Spirit

1. Jesus at his baptism is filled with the Spirit and it is out of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit He lives and dies and rises again!
2. Believers
  - a. **Ephesians 5:17-21 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup> *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* <sup>18</sup> *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,* <sup>19</sup> *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,* <sup>20</sup> *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* <sup>21</sup> *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*
  - b. More than just an instruction, Paul provides a context for such continual filling to occur.
    - (1) Practice self-control
    - (2) Engage with other Christians in genuine worship
      - (a) Encourage and strengthen one another
      - (b) Giving thanks for always and for everything
      - (c) Submit to one another

### B. Love, know, and apply the word

1. Each time the enemy comes to Jesus with an appeal to his heart that would lead him away from God, Jesus responds from his heart with the word of God.
2. Scripture
  - a. **Psalm 119:11 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*
  - b. **Ephesians 6:17 (ESV)** *and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*
    - (1) The sword is the only offense weapon in the list
    - (2) You cannot fight with a weapon you do not have
      - (a) Read
      - (b) Memorize
      - (c) Apply

### C. Be proactive regarding natural vulnerability

1. Jesus accepts that temptation is part of his human experience
2. But at no time does he entertain that the sin suggested must be part of his human experience:
  - a. Jesus neither courts nor entertains the temptation nor the tempter
  - b. His resistance is in place before the tempter comes
  - c. His covenant relationship with God reinforces His desire to honor God and bring Him glory

### D. Retain a view of your life in covenant with God that is both immediate and eternal

1. He will not dishonor God in the now
2. Because He honors God now, He will live in the glory of God forever