
Key Christian Passages: 1 Corinthians 10:1-12

Learn from Their [Lousy] Examples

Meanings of the Word “Temptation”:

- A test – *Something God has me go through to show me where I am at, to measure by action my obedience, to grow me.*
- A trial – *A challenging, burdensome, or difficult circumstance.*
- A temptation – *A situation where we are enticed to sin.*
The principles given in the passage apply to all three.

Possible Tests, Trials, and Temptations:

Peer pressure – Physical sickness or pain – Personal trouble or tragedy – Points of obedience that don't make sense (Abraham→Isaac) – Perilous times – Persecution – Promptings of sinful pleasure, dishonest gain, or rebellion against God or man

Principle #1: Others Have Faced What I Am Facing

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man;

Promise: God is faithful

- *To keep His promises – Let us hold fast the confession of [our] hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. (Heb 10:23)*
- *To enable me to obey – He who calls you [is] faithful, who also will do [it]. (1 Thes 5:24)*
- *To help me to mature – [that you may be] blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God [is] faithful, . . . (1 Cor 1:4-9)*
- *To make my suffering count – Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls [to Him] in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. (1 Pet 4:19)*
- *To forgive my sins as I confess them – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*
- *To ground me and to guard me – But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard [you] from the evil one. (2 Thes 3:3)*
- *To remain faithful to Himself – If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. (2 Tim 2:13)*

Principle #2: God Will Not Allow More Than I Can Handle

who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,

Principle #3: God Will Always Make a Way Out or Through

but with the temptation will also make the way of escape,

Principle #4: God Will Help Me Out of or Through Each Temptation

that you may be able to bear [it].

- *pass the test, pass through the trial, or pass by the temptation.*

Back Up!

1. I Am Not to Measure My Spiritual Walk by Who or What ... (1-5)

Spiritual experiences and affiliations do not equate to spirituality. Hanging around spiritual people and experiencing events don't make me spiritual.

ALL of the Israelites:

- *Were led by the cloud (fire by night) – supernatural guidance & protection*
- *Passed through the Red Sea on dry land – supernatural deliverance*
- *Were led by Moses – united with a supernaturally appointed/gifted leader*
- *Ate the supernaturally provided food*
- *Drank the supernaturally provided water*

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Get this truth: Attending church gatherings, Bible studies, SS, Christian families, etc. does not confirm my walk with God.

Though they had all of these shared experiences, God was *not* well-pleased. (Proof: All over 20 years old – except Joshua & Caleb – died in the wilderness as punishment from God). Why the history lesson?

2. I Am to Learn from the Examples of Others (6a)

To be our negative examples – what NOT to be like. So we might not become:

a. Craving What God Has Not Given (10:6b; Numbers 11:4-34)

Discontented with about food; unthankful for what God had given; craving what they did not have, and which God had not chosen to provide. (plague)

Phillips: It was utter carnality to speak disparagingly of the manna and yearn after the food given to them by their oppressors in Egypt. It revealed a serious backslidden condition. They actually longed after the old way of life, and that which sustained it. They spoke disparagingly of the "angels' food," the bread from heaven, so graciously given by God.

b. Replacing God with Anything (10:7; Exodus 32:1-35)

Replacing God with something that represented Him in some incomplete fashion; rejecting truths God has revealed about Himself and replacing them with activities that would go against those characteristics. "Rose up to play." sensual music "dance," 19, "naked/wild" 25 (3,000 men died).

c. Embracing Those Outside of Marriage (10:8; Numbers 25:1-9)

Committed harlotry with Moab. Sexual sin is also spiritual sin (idolatry). You cannot separate the two. You cannot commit any form of sexual sin and not negotiate away God's character and commands. (23,000 died)

d. Tempting Christ (10:9; Numbers 21:4-9; Ex 17:2,7; 23:20-21)

Abusing God's goodness by continuing to press our complaints. Speaking against God's decisions, leadership and provision. (many died)

Phillips: It is a sin to try God's patience, to put His grace to the test, to see how far we can go, to see if He means what He says. It is folly to trade on His kindness and forbearance.

e. Complaining Against Authority (10:10; Numbers 11:1-3)

Grumbling, complaining, & criticizing of God and His leaders. Ex 15:24; 16:2; 17:2-3; Num 14:1-38 (at report of spies); 16:41-50 (at consuming of rebels); Psalm 106:25; Phil 2:14

Lenski: To murmur is to give audible expression to unwarranted dissatisfaction. Back of all murmuring against God and against his representatives is unbelief. God is no longer trusted, in fact, he is charged with leading us and treating us in a way that is wrong.

3. I Am to Grab the Lessons (11)

- *For my example*
- *For my admonition*

4. I Am to Heed the Warning (12)

- *The one thinking to be standing (b/c of affiliation, dabbling in sin, self, etc.)*
- *Take heed (lit. "be seeing!")*
- *Lest he fall.*

*** [Psalm 106:7-39] *** 1 Corinthians 10:13!

The tragedy is that many who trust the Lord to get them out of Egypt never trust Him to get them into Canaan. They never cross Jordan and live in victory in the heavenlies. The theme is developed at some considerable length in the second warning passage in Hebrews (4: 7- 5: 13). The warning is that it is possible to have a saved soul and a lost life. It is possible to live a defeated Christian life in the world and to miss all the good things God has for us in Christ. ♦
Phillips

Possible Responses to Tests, Trials, and Temptations

- Rebelling – hardening our hearts
- Quitting – giving up
- Yielding – giving in
- Rejoicing – James 1:2; 1 Pet 1:6; Phil 4:4
- Growing – James 1:2
- Enduring – submitting to God’s Word & God’s help (James 1:12)
- Receiving – James 1:12

(Compare with Psalm 106.)

<p>Psalm 106:1-48 (seems to parallel much of 1 Corinthians 10)</p> <p>⁹ He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness.</p> <p>¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of him who hated <i>them</i>, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.</p> <p>¹¹ The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left.</p> <p>¹² Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.</p> <hr/> <p>¹³ They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel,</p> <p>¹⁴ But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert.</p> <p>¹⁵ And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.</p> <hr/> <p>¹⁶ When they envied Moses in the camp, <i>And</i> Aaron the saint of the LORD,</p> <p>¹⁷ The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan, And covered the faction of Abiram.</p> <p>¹⁸ A fire was kindled in their company; The flame burned up the wicked.</p> <hr/> <p>¹⁹ They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image.</p> <p>²⁰ Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass.</p> <p>²¹ They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt,</p> <p>²² Wondrous works in the land of Ham, Awesome things by the Red Sea.</p> <p>²³ Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, To turn away His wrath, lest He destroy <i>them</i>.</p> <hr/> <p>²⁴ Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe His word,</p> <p>²⁵ But complained in their tents, <i>And</i> did not heed the voice of the LORD.</p> <p>²⁶ Therefore He raised up His hand <i>in an oath</i> against them, To overthrow them in the wilderness,</p> <p>²⁷ To overthrow their descendants among the nations, And to scatter them in the lands.</p> <hr/> <p>²⁸ They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, And ate sacrifices made to the dead.</p> <p>²⁹ Thus they provoked <i>Him</i> to anger with their deeds, And the plague broke out among them.</p> <p>³⁰ Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, And the plague was stopped.</p> <p>³¹ And that was accounted to him for righteousness To all generations forevermore.</p> <hr/> <p>³² They angered <i>Him</i> also at the waters of strife, So that it went ill with Moses on account of them;</p> <p>³³ Because they rebelled against His Spirit, So that he spoke rashly with his lips.</p> <hr/> <p>³⁴ They did not destroy the peoples, Concerning whom the LORD had commanded them,</p> <p>³⁵ But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works;</p> <p>³⁶ They served their idols, Which became a snare to them.</p> <p>³⁷ They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons,</p> <p>³⁸ And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood.</p> <p>³⁹ Thus they were defiled by their own works, And played the harlot by their own deeds.</p>
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